

'Days from irretrievable civil war'

Carrington truce wins Yugoslavs chance of peace

By DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

LORD Carrington yesterday won the signatures of the leaders of Serbia, Croatia and the Yugoslav army on a ceasefire agreement that they all agreed was Yugoslavia's last chance for peace.

"This country is only days away from irretrievable civil war," the former British foreign secretary declared, announcing the terms of the latest truce, which comes into effect at noon (11am BST) today.

Croatia responded by ordering its national guard to lift immediately a four-day blockade of federal military bases on its territory. There was no sign of a similar reaction from the Serbian side, and during the afternoon the Yugoslav army, navy and air force continued with co-ordinated offensives against Croatian forces launched before the pact was signed. These included a naval blockade of seven ports.

Under the terms of the ceasefire, the warring sides agreed to an immediate and simultaneous withdrawal from the area of conflict, to the disarmament of all paramilitary forces, and to the



federal army's return to barracks. The agreement was signed by Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, and General Veljko Kadijevic, the federal defence minister, who then pledged to ensure that talks with the European Community in The Hague lead to success.

The Community's Dutch presidency welcomed the pact, but maintained its call for an armed peacekeeping force to be deployed in Yugoslavia.

Italy said that it was willing to send troops to a force set up under the auspices of the Western European Union, but Britain and France are sceptical about the idea. John Major and Douglas Hurd will today meet the Dutch prime minister, Ruud Lubbers, and Mr van den Broek for half a day of talks in advance of an emergency meeting of Community foreign ministers tomorrow.

The leaders who signed the truce after four hours of talks in the Adriatic resort of Igalo yesterday did not say whether they had discussed the idea of an EC peacekeeping force. They did, however, pledge to render all assistance to the Community delegation monitoring the ceasefire.

While it is still open to doubt whether yesterday's agreement will fare any better than the two previous ceasefires negotiated through the EC, it avoids the ambiguities of the others by stipulating simultaneous withdrawals and by specifying which units should be dismantled and disbanded. The demobilisation of the Croatian reservists and national guard — demanded by the military all along — is now explicitly agreed.

The leaders who signed the

document recognised "deep and dangerous divisions" about who was responsible for the violence and about the political future of the country, but added: "On one thing we are united: that no viable solution for our peoples can result from violence and killing and that we must talk together to determine if we can agree the future relationship between our peoples."

"We therefore pledge ourselves that everyone within our control and under our political and military influence should cease fighting immediately."

The men conclude: "We recognise that this is the last chance for a de-escalation and a cessation of actual warfare, without which there can be no meaningful negotiation on the future of our peoples. We are fully conscious of the heavy responsibility we share."

The accord comes after a week of raging battles that have left towns devastated in Slavonia and in Banja. Topusko, a peaceful spa about 35 miles south of Zagreb, was destroyed by battles that lasted several days. In Vukovar, 20 people were reported dead after fierce fighting; smoke poured from houses that had been shelled.

Yesterday, before the pact was signed, the federal army drove back Croatian forces in the southern region of Knin and launched a joint attack with the navy on the port city of Sibenik. Croatian radio also reported that six federal MiG 21 fighter jets had strafed a Zagreb suburb, while the navy blockaded the ports of Split, Pula, Rijeka, Zadar, Ploce and Dubrovnik as well as Sibenik.

French demands, page 12
Letters, page 17

Appeal for Ward case

THE case of Judith Ward, jailed for life in 1974 after she confessed to the IRA bombing of an army coach which killed 12 people, is to be referred to the Court of Appeal, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, announced yesterday.

Ward has never appealed against conviction but now strongly protests her innocence. Following a Home Office enquiry, there are serious doubts about scientific evidence used to convict her.



Ward claims she was innocent of IRA bombing
Report, page 5

Air France accused of flying spies in the sky

From CHARLES BREMMER IN NEW YORK

IF THE stewardess lingers a little when she pours the chablis the next time you fly on a French airliner, beware. She may be a government spy and so might the man beside you, especially if you are in business class. Even if he is not, there is a chance your seat is bugged.

American business travellers are being given this somewhat alarming advice by government and private security officials reacting to evidence that the French intelligence service is busy scooping up US business trade secrets and passing them on to French companies. Tales of such activity have become legion of late, and now Pierre Marion, the former head of the DGSE, France's intelligence agency, has confirmed that he had set up an

industrial espionage network in 1981 whose mission was to spy on American business.

France would never dream of snatching political and military secrets from its allies, he said "but in the economic competition, in the technological competition, we are competitors, we are not allies."

Mr Marion's forthright remarks to NBC television, and his insistence that he had no regrets, have upset Americans, who are shocked, as *Newsweek* magazine put it, to see that "those naughty French are at it again". However, one New York security expert said yesterday that big American firms had long been aware of the risks involving business with France and had adopted elaborate measures such as scrambling faxes and telephone calls, keeping computer

disks in their pockets while on the road, and avoiding talk on airliners.

The state-owned Air France rejected the claims of experts who told NBC of its alleged complicity in espionage. "To our knowledge, I deny that our staff belong to the secret service," a spokeswoman said. NBC's broadcast was the latest in a series of reports by the American media exposing the dirty tricks which French agents allegedly perpetrate against naive American businessmen. In recent months, the FBI, IBM and other big companies have confirmed various reports of escapades in which hotel staff, airline personnel, and even French employees of American companies, have gathered information later used to give an edge to French competitors.

In June, *The Wall Street Journal*

reported the case of an executive for an American high-tech company who discovered that French executives at a sales meeting had photocopies of his own sales strategy and technical documents, apparently pilfered and copied from his luggage. The same month, the FBI found the French consul-general and a colleague in Houston grabbing bags of rubbish outside houses in an expensive suburb. The pair, who were traced through the car number, said they were picking up bags of grass cuttings to fill a hole in the consulate grounds, but the FBI told *The Wall Street Journal* it believed they were after documents discarded by corporate bosses living near by.

In the meantime, *Newsweek* warned readers: "The best policy is to watch what you say to the flight attendants."

Old fox applies his wily skills

An auction-house peer is showing the fine art of avoiding civil war in Yugoslavia, reports Roger Boyes

LORD Carrington, who should have been presenting the results of Christmas International in London, chose instead yesterday to hold a working breakfast with the warlords of Yugoslavia and, gently warning of imminent apocalypse, bullied them into signing a new ceasefire.

Nothing, not even his years the Thatcher cabinet, had prepared the former foreign secretary for the depths of Balkan intrigue involved in the war between Serbs and Croats. Has his lordship — once described by Robert Mugabe as an "old fox" — managed after only a fortnight in the job to end the bloodiest European war in decades? Probably not. But it was certainly more exciting than reading his prepared speech at Christie's ("outstanding sales in silver, old master paintings and drawings, jewellery and continental furniture").

In the Adriatic resort of Igalo yesterday, the continental furniture did not extend to a round table. The grim-faced Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, and his Croatian rival, Franjo Tudjman, were barely talking to each other, and their joint statement dwelt on "the deep and dangerous divisions between us."

As one of Lord Carrington's diplomatic entourage admitted: "It all depends

Major delays decision until after conference

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE prime minister is prepared to wait beyond the end of the Conservative party conference to decide whether to launch a November general election.

If there is to be an autumn contest it will not necessarily be on November 7 but could be held as late as November 14 or November 21, despite fears that shorter days and colder nights could cut the turnout of older voters who tend to support the Tories.

Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, does not want to launch an election with the Conservatives at less than 44 per cent and party planners are aware of the need for an initial clear lead in the polls to allow for the fact that governments almost always lose support during the election campaign itself. The Conservatives need to finish

an election at least four points clear of Labour to be sure of a governing majority.

An ICM poll for today's *Guardian* shows the major parties neck and neck on 39 per cent, with the Liberal Democrats on 17 per cent.

Senior figures in the Tory party say that there is little chance of the prime minister telling the Conservative faithful in his speech to the party conference on October 11 to go back to their constituencies and prepare for an election, even if support for the Conservatives in the opinion polls has by then made an autumn election an attractive option.

It would not be easy for John Major to duck away from the party conference in Blackpool to seek the Queen's consent to the dissolution of parliament. Nor would he wish to detract from the impact of his first conference speech as party leader.

Mr Major and his party strategists are also inclined to wait and examine detailed evidence from opinion polls over the weekend after the party conference, and possibly the weekend after that, before launching any election.

They also believe that there will be further good news on inflation in the retail price index figures to be released on November 15 and see an argument for delaying the contest beyond that.

However, the very fact that November dates are now being examined with such care by ministers who had pre-



THE LATEST POLLS

Party	Fieldwork	C	Lab	L/Dem	OTH	C lead
ICM	Aug 23-24	40	43	12	5	-3
Mori	Aug 23-27	42	40	14	4	+2
Gallup	Aug 24-Sep 2	39%	35	19%	6	+4%
NOP	Sep 6-7	41	39	15	5	+2
Harris	Sep 11/12	43	38	16	3	+5
ICM	Sep 12/13	41	37	17	4	+4
ICM	Sep 14/16	39	38	17	5	-

Baker offers Israel loans deal

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, offered Israel a compromise yesterday to break the deadlock in the week-old dispute with the Israeli leadership over American loan guarantees for Jewish immigrants.

But the American envoy told Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, that the offer was non-negotiable and said that President Bush would go to the American people if Israel and the powerful American Jewish lobby turn down the deal and defy the White House. The Bush administration's offer is intended to ease both Arab and Israeli concerns ahead of next month's proposed peace conference, and to prove that Washington can perform the task of honest broker.

Mr Baker's six-point compromise includes a promise not to postpone beyond January consideration of Israel's request for \$10 billion (£5.7 billion) in loan guarantees and to reimburse Israel for any borrowing at higher interest rates.

However, the offer fell far short of Israeli demands for immediate financial assistance and was tougher than a separate compromise being touted in Congress. Israel said that it would study the offer and respond shortly.

"Even though we have not resolved this absorption question, I hope and believe we will find a way to resolve it short of a big fight," said an American official travelling with Mr Baker.

Although Mr Baker had two rounds of talks on Monday night and yesterday morning with Mr Shamir, David Levy, the foreign minister, and Moshe Arens, the defence minister, the compromise did not win over the Israeli leadership immediately, except for Mr Levy, who hinted that Israel would accept it.

The Bush administration has demanded that the request for housing loan guarantees be deferred for 120 days, until after the start of the proposed peace conference. Israel's supporters are attempting to push through a separate compromise guaranteeing the loans after the delay.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 16

TODAY IN THE TIMES

YOU TATTOO?

Even bankers and accountants are turning up in Dunstable for the Tattoo Expo, drawn inexorably (as well as indelibly). Why? Page 14

STREET CRED

Thelma Barlow and others in Coronation Street have unspoken parts in today's talks to shift Channel 3 applications Page 31

BATON CHARGE

Giuseppe Sinopoli has not only heard the one about the English, the Germans and the Italians, he's conducting it Page 15

SWITCHED ON

Pengop says it will market the first mass produced electric cars in Britain within two years. The cars will have a range of about 150 miles Page 6

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FORD'S MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS
THE TRUTH ABOUT MICHAEL JULIEN'S HEALTH PLUS

DAVID HEMERY SIR JOHN HARVEY-JONES
MARK MCCORMACK TOM PETERS

Management Week

AT NEWSAGENTS NOW. £1

Majorette hopefuls unite under the banner of social progress



Willetts: director of Centre for Policy Studies

JOHN Major's newest lieutenants, destined to influence the Conservative benches after the next election, set out their stall yesterday on the theme of rebuilding Britain's social cohesion.

Slugging off the obsolete labels of wet or dry, right and left, pro and anti-European, the ten Tory parliamentary candidates standing for some of the country's safest seats published their manifesto for a fourth term under the heading *Bearing the Standard*.

Without exception they are white, male, middle-class, slim and smartly suited. Ages range from 29 to 40 and, by their rosy cheeks and curricula vitae, they revealed them-

The candidates for the safest seats in the country have set out their vision of Britain under Conservative rule. Sheila Gunn went to meet them

seives to be a tribute to the benefits of the National Health Service and private education.

They aspire to replace long-serving MPs with four or five-figure majorities such as Nigel Lawson (Andrew Robathan) at Blaby, Sir Paul Dean (Liam Fox) in Woodspring, Sir Ian Lloyd (David Willetts) in Havant, Sir John Farr (Edward Garnier) in Harborough and Sir Michael Shaw (John Sykes) in Scarborough.

Unlike the prime minister, all but one of the candidates went to university, six to Oxbridge. Two went to Eton (Harold Elletson and David Faber), two to Merchant Taylors' (Alan Duncan and Andrew Robathan) and one each to Wellington (Edward Garnier) and Rugby (Charles Hendry).

For them, as for many voters, it is a struggle to remember life under a Labour government. "Even before we

packed our flared jeans off to the Oxford shop we had become aware that Britain's political and economic strength was decaying fast," the pamphlet says.

The "standard bearers" accept that old battle honours will not secure them a fourth term and the Conservative party possesses no God-given right to win elections. David Liddington, their spokesman, yesterday even owned up to economic "mistakes" by the Thatcher governments.

Until a year ago they were all avowed Thatcherites. However in their pamphlet they show the political nous to espouse the Majorite themes of dry economically, but wet-

ter than the former prime minister on social policies. The message is that the Thatcher 1980s were the start and now a new agenda must be set for the Major 1990s.

Within the 25 pages, refreshingly free of jargon, they recommend:

- an overhaul of teacher training colleges, possibly coupled to performance-related pay for teachers;
- some kind of community service for all youngsters;
- abolishing Avon, restore Rutland and reunite Yorkshire councils;
- nationwide training voucher schemes;
- bringing older, experienced people into Whitehall;

- introducing private prisons;
- examining higher carbon taxes or road-pricing schemes;
- encouraging private health and welfare schemes;
- and an EC "green" policy but no European defence or foreign policy.

Mr Major's standard bearers, with constituencies, retaining MPs and the 1987 majorities, are:

- Alan Duncan, 34, a self-employed oil trader, Rutland & Melton, Michael Latham, 23,022, Harold Elletson, 30, a business consultant, Blackpool North, Norman Miscampbell, 7,321, David Faber, 30, market consultant, Westbury, Sir Dennis Walters, 10,097, Liam Fox, 29, family

doctor, Woodspring, Sir Paul Dean, 17,852, Edward Garnier, 38, barrister, Harborough, Sir John Farr, 18,810, Charles Hendry, 32, former political adviser to John Moore and Tony Newton, High Peak, Peter Rost, 9,516.

David Liddington, 35, former special adviser to Douglas Hurd, Aylesbury, Timothy Raison, 16,558, Andrew Robathan, 40, former army major, Blaby, Nigel Lawson, 22,176, John Sykes, 35, businessman, Scarborough, Sir Michael Shaw, 13,626, David Willetts, 35, director of studies at the Centre for Policy Studies, Havant, Sir Ian Lloyd, 16,510.

Major will cut and run for November says Kinnock

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL KINNOCK predicted last night that John Major would "cut and run" for a November election because of a range of difficulties building up for the government early next year.

The Labour leader, in upbeat mood after placing the shadow cabinet on full alert for the election at an all-day session in a London hotel, said Mr Major would want to "get out from under" because the recovery would be slow, patchy and fragile, and because impending problems over poll tax bills, the health service and the Maastricht summit could lead to problems in his own party.

He said the party was "geared up, ready to go and to win". He predicted, however, that if the two parties remained level, Mr Major would "bottle out" of a November election.

Labour leaders, disappointed by the elimination of their opinion poll lead in early summer, were relieved by last night's ICM poll. They had earlier been told that the party's private polling showed them running neck and neck with the Conservatives.

Mr Kinnock admitted that Labour had to get over more strongly its message that its industrial and economic policies were the only coherent basis for making Britain competitive and successful. He made plain that the party would not be proposing new policy directions, but developing and strengthening its existing message.

In private, the shadow cabinet is split between those who believe there will be an early election and those who think Mr Major will wait. It has

decided, however, to attempt to heighten the pressure on the prime minister to go for November. If he does so, it will be against the background of Labour warnings that he would cut and run. If he decides against, Labour will revive the charge of dithering and allege that he is scared to face the electorate.

The shadow cabinet was given an analysis of private polling that Labour sources claimed revealed great cynicism among voters about the government's "manipulation" of the economy. Many expect inflation, interest rates and VAT to rise after the election.

The voters were also said to identify with Labour policies on the health service, education and other social issues. According to the sources, the polls suggested that Mr Major's "halo effect" after his successful world travels was masking the general unpopularity of the government.

Earlier, Mr Kinnock hit back at questions over his leadership. He said: "The leadership that most concerns the British people and that damages this country is the one which has brought a huge rise in unemployment and in company losses, a huge fall in investment and one million on hospital waiting lists, with record rises in housing repossession. That is the leadership of John Major and the Conservative government."

He said it was a source of strength to him that Tory politicians were calling on him to quit. "They would hardly be calling for the removal of someone who was not going to win the election."

Sweeping change in electoral law urged

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

SWEEPING changes in the laws and customs governing British elections were recommended yesterday in a report calling for fixed-term parliaments and the right for all EC citizens resident in Britain for more than four years to vote in British elections.

The report, by a commission for the Hansard Society for parliamentary government, also urges the redistribution of seats according to electorates with the result that Scotland would have 13 seats fewer and Wales five fewer.

The report says that in Scotland an MP represents on average only 54,000 voters, against 71,000 in England. Labour has 49 of the 71 seats in Scotland and would suffer the most from a shrinkage in numbers. The report calls the over-representation of London "excessively pernicious" with 13 seats more than the city is entitled to in terms of the number of voters.

Noting that the number of MPs has risen from 625 in 1950 to 651 at the next election, the commission urges a statutory limit on any further increase.

The all-party group, chaired by Christopher Chataway, a former Conservative minister, wants an independent electoral commission to take over from the Home Office and local authorities the supervision of electoral administration. It would also take on the work conducted by the parliamentary boundary commissions to speed up what the commission calls the "glacially slow" process of revising constituency boundaries.

David Butler, deputy chairman of the commission, said that the last review of constituency boundaries in Britain had taken seven-and-a-half years to put into effect. In Australia, the process was completed in seven months.



Crash arrest: Sham Gooch, aged 24, a bricklayer, being comforted last night as he left hospital after his car was in an accident in which five died. He was arrested as he

limped, bandaged, from the Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon, Wiltshire. He was the second person detained over the incident, which involved two vehicles.

Mr Gooch, of Penhill, Swindon, had been in hospital since the crash in the Moreton area of the town last Friday. Two children aged seven and eight and a

youth of 17 died when a Ford Escort left the road and plunged into a group playing near a park bench. Two girls, aged 16 and 19, died later from their injuries.

Rover seeks Japanese-style deal

By ROSS TITMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ROVER Group is seeking widespread changes in industrial relations with its 35,000 workforce in an effort to match working practices at Japanese car plants in Britain.

The company is calling on union leaders to set up a single negotiating body for hourly paid and white-collar staff, and to agree to refer all disputes to binding arbitration at Acas, the conciliation service. Greater job security will

be the principal attraction of the package for salaried staff. Hourly paid employees would no longer have to clock on, and would be offered flexible holiday, and sick pay and catering facilities similar to those of white-collar workers.

The request for a strike-free deal will provoke deep divisions between the trade unions. The AEU engineering union has already signed a strike-free agreement with

Nissan at Washington, Tyne and Wear. But the MSF union, whose officer, Jim Thomas, heads the white-collar negotiating committee at Rover, is philosophically opposed to such deals.

Ken Gill, the MSF general secretary, provoked a controversy at the Trade Union Congress in Glasgow two weeks ago with an attack on the introduction of Japanese-style industrial relations to Britain. He said yesterday: "If you sign over the right to strike, I do not see how one can talk about a free society."

However, he saw little problem with merging the two joint negotiating committees, which at present negotiate in parallel for hourly paid and salaried staff.

Most of Rover's proposals are seen by union leaders as an inevitable response to the pressure of competition from Japanese plants which have succeeded in adopting streamlined working practices. Despite increased sales, and a bigger share of the UK market, fierce price competition and a heavy investment programme caused Rover to lose £45 million in the first half of this year. The company declared 1,500 job losses among white-collar staff two months ago, including some compulsory redundancies.

Mr Gill said many more companies were preparing to follow the Rover lead in seeking Japanese-style deals. Rover said its proposals were intended to benefit business and employees alike, and to "establish a framework in which every employee can make a significant contribu-

tion to the company's future". Although it stops short of offering a job for life, the company said it would seek to ensure that "employees who want to work for Rover should be able to stay with Rover."

If the deal is approved, Rover would seek to avoid compulsory redundancies, and ensure that any reductions in manpower were made by natural wastage, retraining and redeployment, voluntary severance and early retirement. In return, they would have to agree to do any task for which they have the skills.

Letters outlining the proposals in detail were sent to employees yesterday, 24 hours after the company presented them to trade union leaders. Two consumer groups have demanded legal action to break an imports deal between Britain and Japan that they claim makes UK car prices the highest in the EC.

An official complaint to the EC Commission, the first stage of legal proceedings in the European Court, accuses the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders of a clear breach of EC competition rules. Under a 14-year-old SMMT agreement on market share with the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association, Japanese car imports to Britain are limited to 11 per cent, including cars manufactured in the EC.

The complaint is being submitted by European consumers' organisation BEUC on behalf of the Consumers' Association and the National Consumer Council.

Electric car soon, page 6

Big rise in births outside marriage

The number of children born out of wedlock is rising eight times faster than births within marriage, according to figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (Jill Sherman writes).

Extra-marital births rose by nearly 8 per cent between 1989 and 1990, to 200,000, compared with a rise of less than 1 per cent for births within marriage, which totalled 306,000 in 1990. Births outside marriage accounted for 28.3 per cent of all live births, compared with 11.8 per cent in 1980.

They accounted for four-fifths of teenage births and two-fifths of births to women aged 20 to 24 in 1990. The biggest relative rise in children born to unmarried mothers was to women aged 25 to 34, with numbers more than doubling since 1980. The average age of women at childbirth has risen to 27.5 years.

Although the total number of births increased by 18,000 to 706,000 last year, the highest figure for 18 years, fertility rates are still insufficient for long-term replacement of the population.

The autumn issue of Population Trends shows that one-parent families have doubled in the last 20 years to about 1.15 million. The largest increase in one-parent families occurred for single lone mothers which quadrupled between 1971 and 1989, and for divorced lone mothers, which more than trebled.

Population Trends 65 (Stationery Office, £7.25)

Baby decision

The Home Office's decision to remove two nine-month-old babies from their mothers in Holloway prison is attacked in a letter to *The Times* today by the barrister and broadcaster Helena Kennedy, QC. The decision, arising from a new Home Office policy on women recommended for deportation, is deeply disturbing, she says.

Letters, page 17

BNFL fined

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd was fined £7,500 at Fleetwood magistrates' court, Lancashire, yesterday after admitting unauthorised disposal of radioactive waste at premises leased from the Royal Navy. Metal boxes, one of which was found to be contaminated, were stored there before being sold for scrap. Peter Green, for the defence, said the contamination level was no more than in a packet of fertiliser.

Islands choice

The Western Isles council, trying to extricate itself from the loss of more than £23 million invested with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, yesterday elected a new convener. To the surprise of many, Donald Macleod, education chairman, won the secret ballot by two votes, defeating the favourite, Kathleen Macaskill, chairman of the committee set up to investigate the BCCI affair.

Keays writ

Sara Keays is suing Waterstones the booksellers for alleged libel over an autobiography by Norman Tebbit, *Upwardly Mobile*. Ms Keays, of Marksbury, Bath, says that Waterstones has exposed for sale, sold and published Mr Tebbit's memoirs, in which she claims to be defamed. She has issued a writ in the High Court seeking damages and an injunction forbidding further sales of the book.

CORRECTION

John Mortimer is the personnel and training director of Reed Personnel Services Ltd and not, as stated on September 13 (Life and Times), how to keep fear off your CV, the personnel director of Reed International which is a publishing company.

Labour chiefs act over de-selection

By PETER DAVENPORT

LABOUR'S national executive is to be asked to investigate a debacle which has consumed its local party in Richmond, North Yorkshire, and ended in the de-selection of its prospective parliamentary candidate.

David Abraham, the son of a former mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne, said yesterday that he was appealing to the NEC in an attempt to overturn the decision which brought his political ambitions to a premature end.

Mr Abraham, aged 47, lost his position after an unprecedented, second de-selection meeting. It followed a year in which the local party had been beset by accusations, disputes and resignations over the issue of his candidature. There were allegations surrounding his business and private life and claims that he had presented himself as a married man with a young son when, in fact, he was single.

In April this year, Mr Abraham faced a de-selection meeting and survived by a single vote only to see his agent, press officer, chairman, two vice-chairmen, treasurer, secretary and women's officer resign their posts in protest.

A second de-selection meeting was fixed for Monday night and went ahead when Mr Abraham failed to secure a High Court injunction to prevent it. The local constituency party dropped him and decided to re-open the selection procedure to find a new prospective candidate to fight the seat, which is held for the Conservatives by William Hague with a majority of 2,634. It was formerly the seat

of Sir Leon Brittan. Mr Abraham also faces a crown court trial over alleged illegal eviction of tenants.

David Robertson, Labour's regional organiser, said the selection process could be speeded if an early general election is called. Local party officials who had earlier resigned in protest are expected to resume their positions at a meeting next week.

Mr Abraham said yesterday: "This whole thing has erupted as a result of a long and sustained smear campaign against me. I have the full support of the vast majority of members of the Richmond Labour party, it is just certain delegates who are against me. The differences centre on allegations made about me which I totally reject and which were rejected at the first ballot in April."



Mortar target: the remains of a RUC Land Rover attacked by the IRA, who killed a policeman and seriously injured three soldiers.

The IRA struck less than 24 hours after the murder of a Sinn Féin councillor by the Ulster Freedom Fighters in Co Londonderry (Edward German writes).

Constable Erik Clarke, who was 37 and English and had served with the RUC since 1989, died instantly when the Land Rover in

which he was travelling was hit by a Mark 12 horizontal mortar at Swatragh.

Constable Clarke's death — the sixth of a policeman in the province this year — follows the shooting by Bernard O'Hagan, a Sinn Féin member of Magherafelt district council. Constable Clarke, a former soldier who was married and lived in Portlaine, Co Antrim, died less than two miles from Mr O'Hagan's home.

The officer was in a four-

vehicle police and army patrol entering the village at about 1.40am when the mortar was detonated by a command wire from a school playground. Four soldiers were in the hit Land Rover. Three of them suffered serious leg and arm injuries.

Local Unionist politicians say the attack was revenge for Mr O'Hagan's death. "All the people expected something to happen," said Bertie Macquerry, Ulster Unionist leader of Magherafelt district council.

Women magicians celebrate arrival of a full circle

By TIM JONES

WOMEN sharpened their saws yesterday in anticipation of cutting men in half as they celebrated the culmination of one of the longest tricks in history, the vote to allow them to join the Magic Circle.

While many famous wizards went into hiding, women prepared to cast aside the shiny leotards which have for decades marked them out as mere assistants and prepared to bombard the organisation with membership forms.

Last night, Debbie McGee, who as Paul Daniels' wife, has had more skaters thrust through her than a kebab, planned to become the first female member of the hitherto all-

male bastion by presenting her application at the London club where the circle was holding a function.

For her it was sweet revenge: her husband had opposed female membership on the grounds that women could not be trusted to keep secrets. The bitterly contested men-only rule was written into the constitution about 80 years ago and withstood complaints to the Equal Opportunities Commission, which said that because the circle was a "private gentlemen's club" it could take no action against it.

Greville Janner, chairman of the Parliamentary Magic Group, who when performing before children in

his Leicestershire constituency is known as the Magic Prince, welcomed the vote — by 469 to 129 — which achieved the 75 per cent majority needed to admit women.

Conservative comment was hard to come by as the other accomplished parliamentary magician, John MacGregor, Leader of the House, was in Australia practising standing upside down. Mr Janner said: "I am a close-up artist whereas Mr MacGregor is very good at misdirection."

Magically, without even contacting him, a spokeswoman from Mr MacGregor's office produced a quote: "I very much welcome this vote. I believe in giving women the

opportunity to succeed in all walks of life."

A spokesman for the Birmingham glass company Triplex said that he was sure that Bobo the Magic Clown, otherwise known as Bob King, the company chief executive, would be pleased the Magic Circle had followed the lead taken last year by the even older British Magical Society, of which he is president. Chris Pratt, the circle's secretary, said: "I expect about 20 women to apply to join. The vote has been going in their favour for some time and I welcome the decision."

The most famous member of the circle, Prince Charles, could not be asked for his views as he was

entertaining the Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan. In private, however, Prince Charles may have been tempted to show him his own version of *origami*, his specialist trick which involves making shredded paper whole.

Sadly, the decision came too late for Morine Vickers, who was refused entry ten years ago because she is a woman. She still performs her stage act and makes cabaret tours of America.

Speaking at her home in Leicester, she said: "I was annoyed when I was turned down. I had already been performing for 20 years. My talents were never questioned — it was pure sexual discrimination."

سكنا من الاصل

Sexual discrimination case

Maternity leave broker threatened with bankruptcy

By LIN JENKINS

THE BOSS of a £140,000-a-year woman stockbroker threatened her with bankruptcy during her maternity leave if she did not return to work, an industrial tribunal was told in London yesterday.

The letter, from Cindy Buggins, managing director of Euro Brokers Capital Markets, containing the threat to Lilliane Preister was branded a piece of idiocy by Frederick Mostyn, the tribunal chairman.

Miss Buggins told the tribunal the letter was unwise but said she was following lawyers' advice. She denied she had passed Mrs Preister over for promotion because she was pregnant.

Miss Buggins said that Mrs Preister, aged 31, had delusions about being promoted to manager after she returned from maternity leave although she was too selfish and unpopular for the post. Mrs Preister had demanded a cash incentive to return to work after the birth and then asked

for more money, claiming her professional skills were worth £160,000.

She claims she was forced to leave her job with the company in the City of London after being passed over for promotion and because promised bonuses and maternity incentive payments were not delivered.

Miss Buggins, aged 33, said: "She was a very good broker but she was not liked by

members of the team. She was a very individual type of broker, she would want to do deals for herself rather than for the strength of the company. Certain members of the team felt she was too individualistic and would not make a good manager."

Mrs Preister, who now has two children, of Golders Green, north London, is claiming sexual discrimination and constructive dismissal against the company at the hearing in Chelsea.

The Belgium-born broker, who is fluent in English, Dutch, French and German, joined in 1987 on £14,000 a year and rose rapidly. She refused to sign a new contract in 1990, which would have seen her pay rise from £32,000 to £50,000. Mrs Preister and another colleague demanded, and were given, £70,000 a year in their new two-year contracts, with an inflation proofing clause not given to the others. With bonuses of £55,000 a year, a Saab Turbo convertible, health insurance and other benefits her total package was worth about £140,000.

In November the two women met to discuss the amount of bonus due for work in the first quarter of the year before maternity leave began, but nothing was decided. The pair had an argument and Mrs Preister stormed out after claiming she was worth £160,000. An exchange of letters followed, with the one from Miss Buggins described by Mr Mostyn as "rude and offensive" and "threatening on all sides".

Mr Mostyn enquired whether sending the letter was the expected move "of somebody as empathetic as you are, who holds her team together by her understanding". Miss Buggins insisted to the hearing that she was still determined at the time to see Mrs Preister return to work as she was an excellent money broker who earned the company a lot of money.

When Mrs Preister returned to work the pair had a meeting at which the question of bonuses was mentioned. "She was more distressed with her customer accounts and the direction of the group. The market had changed during her absence and she was giving her views of things."

Miss Buggins said she had since discovered that Mrs Preister knew she was pregnant again when she left in January, a point conceded by Selwyn Bloch, the money broker's counsel. "I can only feel that she resigned because she wanted to stay at home and have a family," Miss Buggins said.

The hearing was adjourned until October 24.



Preister yesterday: "A very good broker but disliked by members of her team"

Colleges prefer local links

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

MOST sixth-form colleges would prefer continued local authority control to the independence now offered by the government, according to a survey published yesterday.

Only two of the 55 colleges responding to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that they would welcome the ending of council control. None offered unqualified support for the proposals in the further education white paper, which included colleges nominated for self-government.

The survey, which drew responses from half of all sixth form colleges, revealed anxiety about the speed of the changes and the proposed funding arrangements. Many felt that the regional councils to be responsible for education over the age of 16 would lack local knowledge without education authority representation.

Other principals and governors were worried that their distinctive local ethos might be endangered, and that colleges would suffer from the loss of local authority services.

Now, the Milton Keynes concerto

By DAVID YOUNG

CITIES which have inspired the great composers — Paris, Rome, Vienna, Berlin, London, New York and Moscow — are to be joined by Milton Keynes, which to date has inspired architects, town planners, and the creators of concrete cows.

The city, built in several square miles of north Buckinghamshire in the past 25 years, is to mark its silver jubilee by commissioning a piece of chamber music from young composers which will reflect the energy and the unique nature of Milton Keynes. There will be a £2,000 prize and a specially commissioned trophy. The winning piece will be played at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London on March 10 by the Milton Keynes Chamber Orchestra at a gala concert to mark the jubilee.

Ironically, a concert hall is one of the few facilities yet to be developed in Milton Keynes. It has what is widely recognised as the most successful shopping mall in the country where the last Saturday before Christmas can be compared to a scene from Dante's *Inferno*. It has industrial areas where the bleep of electronic machines brings tears of joy to the accountants of their parent companies back home in Tokyo.

The city will also, next month, have its own inter-denominational church with an impressive dome which will reverberate to the sound of praise. It even has a dog track where voices are often raised in exhortation, and the MKBowl, which provides a natural amphitheatre for the superstars of rock.

The winning composition will show that Milton Keynes also has culture. The panel which judges *Music for Milton Keynes* will be chaired by the conductor Sir Charles Groves and will include the heads of composition at leading music colleges.

Bob Hill, the commercial director of Milton Keynes Development Corporation, said: "Music for Milton Keynes provides young composers with an excellent opportunity to show their talent in creating a musical tribute for the city. It also reflects the quality of life and cultural activities which can be found in Milton Keynes."

Joanna Korner, for the prosecution, said the pair hatched the plot because they were in financial difficulties after their business failed. The trial continues today.

Wife of vicar 'the real victim'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A COUNTRY vicar's wife was the real victim of accusations of adultery against her husband, a Church of England consistory court was told yesterday. Tricia Tyler, aged 48, had been deceived by her husband and by her friend, Nicholas Atkinson, QC, for the prosecution, said.

The Rev Tom Tyler, aged 52, the vicar of Henfield, West Sussex, was denied conduct unbefitting a priest, by conducting an adulterous affair with Barbara Edwards, 20 years his junior, in 1988-9. He says he merely comforted her after her infant son's cot death.

In his closing speech to the four assessors, Mr Atkinson said that the vicar had deliberately exaggerated his evidence to show how busy he was, and how many people used to visit the Edwards's house, to illustrate how there would be no opportunity for sex.

"There is opportunity if the inclination is there," Mr Atkinson said. "Exaggeration is the least of Mr Tyler's evils, for, if Mrs Edwards is right and he conducted himself in a way a parish priest should not, he has clearly, blatantly lied to you."

Anthony Scrivener, QC, for Mr Tyler, said that Mrs Edwards had been caught by her claims of adultery. "Once they had been made, they could not be retracted," he said. He pointed to the vagueness of her allegations, saying that she had not provided times or even an exact date when the alleged sexual encounters had taken place.

He then turned to Mrs Edwards' sale of her story to a Sunday newspaper for £11,000. "She was quite prepared to discuss, in the most explicit terms, allegations of sexual impropriety for the benefit of the whole population of the country," Mr Scrivener said. "She knew she would not get her £11,000 if there was no finding of guilt."

The hearing continues today.

Drug plot man is jailed for 25 years

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A TURKISH businessman involved in the distribution of the largest heroin cargo seized in Britain was sentenced yesterday to 25 years' imprisonment by Maidstone crown court. Two lorry drivers who brought the 242 kilos of heroin, worth £33 million, into Britain last December, concealed in their vehicles, were each jailed for 18 years.

Tandy Simsek, aged 32, a company director from Ilford, Essex, and the two drivers, Sahin Degener, aged 31, and Seyyat Kavusturan, aged 29, were held after an investigation into the importation of heroin from Turkey on the "Balkan route" through southern Europe. In the past year, police and drugs investigators have become increasingly concerned about the use of the route by container traffic carrying drugs. In June a British Customs liaison officer was sent to Turkey to help to build up information on possible cargoes to Britain.

In December, Customs officers at Dover stopped two lorries from Turkey that fitted the profile of traffickers developed from intelligence reports and analysis. The lorries had crossed Europe through Yugoslavia and Germany to Ostend, in Belgium.

The drivers were separated from their vehicles while their trailers, carrying cargoes of towels, were searched. The floors of the trailers seemed to be thicker than they should have been, and Customs officers discovered cavities holding trays of plastic-wrapped heroin. It was pretended that the drugs had been undetected and the drivers were followed to a lorry park in London.

However, hopes of uncovering a distribution network faded when the lorries remained undisturbed for several days. Customs officers arrested the drivers and then Simsek. It is believed his role may have been to guide the drivers to a safe place for the release of the drugs.

Burglary van kills teacher on footpath

A VAN that knocked down and killed a young teacher yesterday in front of some pupils had been used in a post office burglary, police said. Last night, officers said that they were treating the hunt for driver of the vehicle that killed Sangheeta Mohan, aged 27, as a murder enquiry.

Miss Mohan died as she walked to take lessons at Parkfield school, in Alum Rock, Birmingham, yesterday morning. The white Shroton van mounted the pavement near the school and hit her, pinning her against a wall.

As Miss Mohan lay dying on the pavement, two Asian youths who appeared as young as 15, ran from the scene. Miss Mohan, who was a graduate of Manchester University and lived in Harborne, Birmingham, was dead on arrival at East Birmingham Hospital. She had been due to be married in two weeks' time.

Police found in the back of the unregistered van a safe that had been stolen from a post office in Villa Road, Aston, Birmingham, on Monday evening.

Chief Inspector Ian Garrett said: "What we are talking about here are thieves who have stolen a van from somewhere and on board there was a stolen safe. They have driven around the corner and hit this woman. They have realised what they have done and yet they have still run away."

"When people talk about joyriding they must understand there was absolutely no joy in this, whatsoever. There is no joy for the father of this woman or the mother, who have lost their daughter. Nor is there any joy for the young man who was about to marry her."

Mr Garrett said of the culprits: "These two men are gutless, they have no morals." The two people sought are described as Asian, aged 15 to 17. One was short and thin with short hair, and wore dark trousers and an orange pull-over. The other was also short, and wore dark trousers and a dark tracksuit top.

Test-tube baby woman sacked

A WOMAN was sacked from her job with a multi-national company after she announced that she was having twins by *in vitro* fertilisation, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. Bernie Hojabri, aged 33, a medical supplies saleswoman earning £22,000 a year, lost out on a £37,000 share scheme and a £14,000 company car, the tribunal was told.

Auto Sure, an American owned company making medical equipment, telephoned Mrs Hojabri to dismiss her five days after she had the fertilisation operation, the hearing in central London was told. Mrs Hojabri had worked at the company for three and a half years. The company admits that she was unfairly dismissed but is contesting her claim for reinstatement and compensation.

Mrs Hojabri asked her employer for time off to have the treatment after years of trying to start a family, the tribunal was told. She said her request was refused because the time she wanted coincided with an important sales operation.

She persuaded her superiors at the firm, based in Ascot, Berkshire, to give her unpaid leave on July 11, 1990. She later found out that she was expecting twins.

She said Eugene Starr, the general manager of the company, was unimpressed. She was telephoned at her home in Brentwood, Essex, while still on unpaid leave, to tell her she was sacked. She told the tribunal: "They said I had to choose between my job and the IVF treatment."

Susan Titterton, a senior marketing manager, said Mrs Hojabri was a dedicated, committed, hard working sales person. However, she added: "I became aware through a discussion with the regional sales manager that Bernie was requesting time off. I was aware of her attempts to conceive by methods of IVF. I said she should turn down the request and try to find another time for the treatment."

"The timing was not good in those six months. I said for anyone to be away for a considerable time, with the competition we faced, would cause damage." She claimed the company lost an important account.

Ms Titterton said she went on holiday and was shocked to find on her return that Mrs Hojabri had gone ahead with the treatment and was expecting twins. "I thought she had gone against company policy completely," she said. "I would not have the confidence to have her continue in her job. My view is that she would not be a sensible sales representative."

Mrs Hojabri, who gave birth to twin girls, Sofia and Sara, six months ago, attended the hearing, which continues, with her husband Hosein, aged 41, a doctor.

£10,450 captures 'horse'

By JOHN SHAW

A HOBBY horse owned by the first earl of Durham, on sale for the first time since the 1820s, was bought yesterday for £10,450.

The hobby horse, consisting of little more than a shaped wooden beam slung between two iron-rimmed wheels, was bought by a member of the Veteran Cycle Club during a country house sale near Chichester, West Sussex. The cycle came from a firm in Newcastle upon Tyne but is similar to those supplied in London by Dennis Johnson in the early 19th century. The new owner intends to carry out further research into its background.

John Lambton, the first earl of Durham from 1792 to 1840, fell off while riding the hobby horse on his Lambton Castle estate and was ridiculed by some small boys. Thereafter, he banished it to the stables. The present Lord Lambton included it in a sale of contents from West Marden Hall, West Marden, a country house bought by his father in 1920.

The sale, estimated to make about £300,000, totalled £426,319.

Police 'tailed blackmailer' for three hours

By DAVID YOUNG

AN ATTEMPT to blackmail the supermarket chain Sainsbury out of £1 million ended when police pretended to hand over a £200,000 down payment at a crowded London underground station and then followed the man who picked it up to a West End club, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

An undercover policeman told the jury of his noon rendezvous with Mark Finbow. The meeting came after a series of letters demanding money allegedly sent by Finbow, aged 24, of no fixed address, and his mother, Mrs Patricia Finbow, aged 51, of

Euston, northwest London, saying that unless they were paid they would contaminate food in Sainsbury supermarkets. Both deny charges of blackmail.

Finbow's first attempt to collect a £200,000 down payment failed because the letter giving instructions on the delivery of the money was delayed. Another letter told Sainsbury's to send a representative, wearing a company tie, with the money to Leicester Square tube station in central London at noon.

Detective Sergeant Roderick McKenzie said he posed as

the Sainsbury representative and went to the rendezvous, where Finbow approached him. Sgt McKenzie, who was wired with a tape recorder, said Finbow asked if he was waiting for Mr Wolf, the name used in the blackmail letters. Finbow left the station and was tailed for more than three hours until he arrived at a Mayfair club, where he was arrested.

Joanna Korner, for the prosecution, said the pair hatched the plot because they were in financial difficulties after their business failed. The trial continues today.



Accused: Patricia and Mark Finbow arriving at their blackmail trial at the Old Bailey yesterday

EENIE, MEENIE, MINEY, MO. EENIE, MEENIE, MINEY, MO. EENIE, MEENIE, MINEY, MO.

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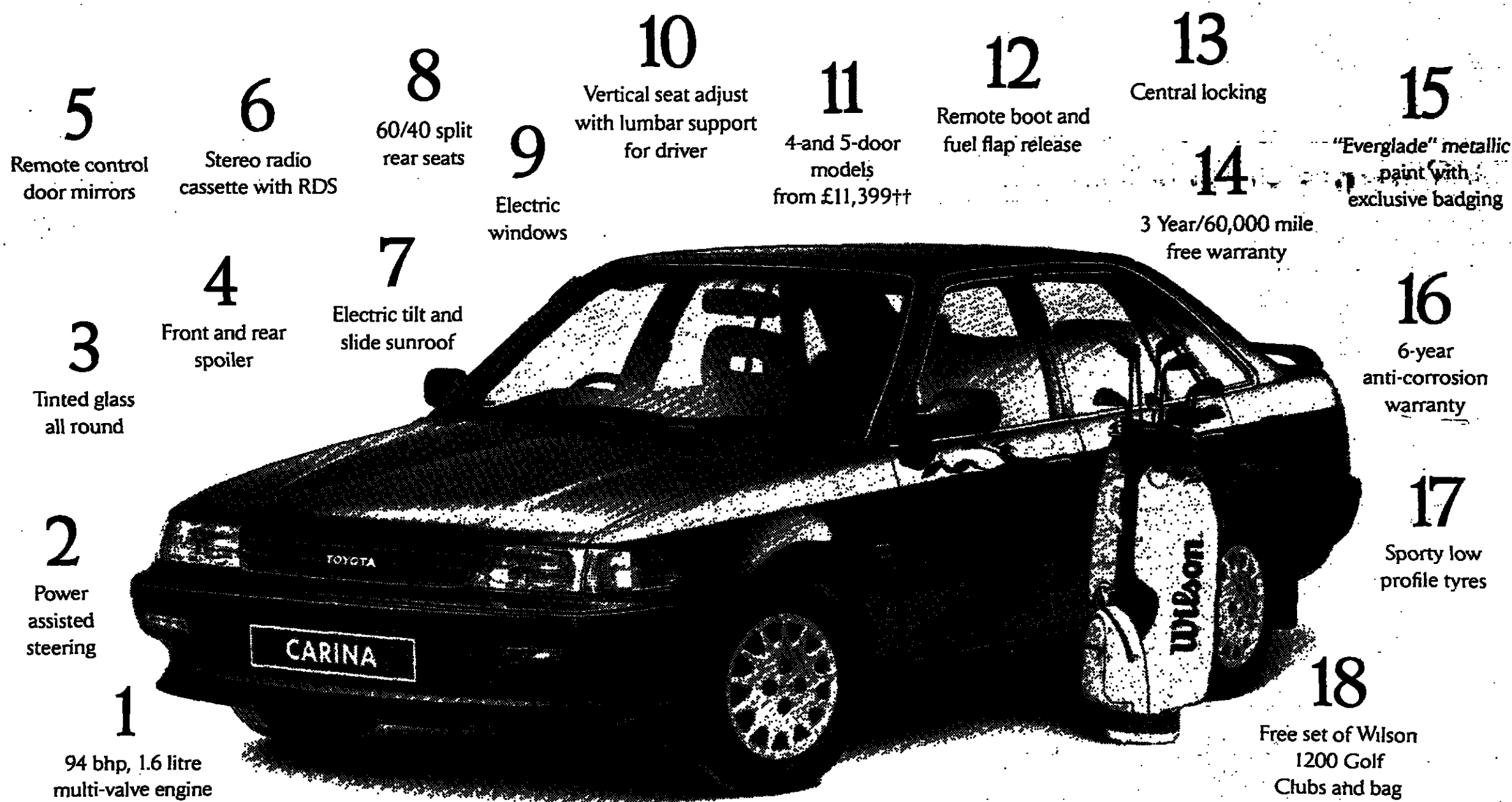
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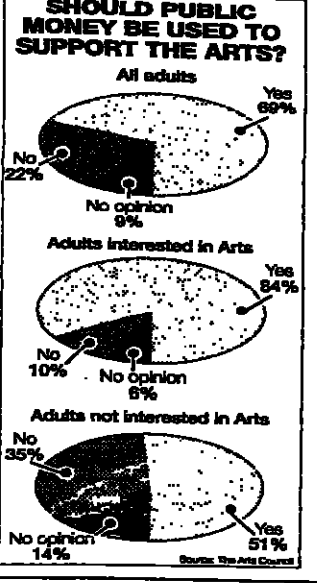
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هكذا من الاجل

Nationwide survey shows strong support for the arts



APPRECIATION of the arts in Britain is thriving with 79 per cent of people regularly attending a cultural event, visiting a state home or gallery, while almost 70 per cent support public funding of the arts, according to a survey published yesterday by the Arts Council.

Interest in the arts was highest among women, the middle-aged, the middle classes and those who had received full-time further education. Women were more likely to attend cultural events, but men were more enthusiastic participants, the survey found.

Anthony Everitt, secretary general of the Arts Council, said that the survey would be a powerful weapon for talks with ministers on funding.

Are the arts just for the middle-aged and middle class? A survey suggests that interest is highest among such groups, but other findings point to a wider appreciation, writes Bill Frost

"Clearly the arts are not a minority interest. It is particularly heartening that such a large proportion [69 per cent] of the population supports the notion of public subsidy, with 55 per cent of adults in favour of support for new and experimental work," he said.

There was disappointment, however, that the arts were more accessible to the middle class and well educated than the less affluent. "This is a problem we will have to overcome," Mr Everitt said.

The sample of 8,000 adults from 136 parliamentary constituencies were selected at random for interview by Research Surveys of Great Britain between June and early July. The Arts Council said yesterday that the survey was probably the largest ever sample of public attitudes towards the arts.

The survey found that television, long regarded as the scourge of the performing arts, has emerged as a positive influence. Its coverage of events often encouraged viewers to attend live performances. A total of 30 per cent of adults watch or listen to arts reviews or discussions and 39 per cent read press reviews. The people for whom television acted as a stimulus tended to be those who were interested in the arts generally, and were young, middle class and well educated.

Almost half the adult population goes to the cinema, about a third visits stately homes and museums, a similar number attend craft exhibitions, while 24 per cent visit art galleries regularly.

Nearly a quarter are regular theatre-goers, 19 per cent buy tickets for a musical and almost as many for the annual pantomime. Rock concerts are attended by 13 per cent of adults while 11 per cent prefer to hear live orchestral music. However, 39 per cent had, on at least one occasion, been put off attending an event by the price of the ticket.

Over half the adult population - 53 per cent - takes part in at least one arts-related, cultural or craft activity, the most popular being photography, disco dancing, woodwork, and painting or drawing, while 48 per cent regularly read a book and 33 per cent enjoy poetry.

Attendance rates for nearly all types of event were found to be above average in London, the South-East and Scotland, with the lowest reported in Wales. East Anglians were particularly fond of music, especially country and western concerts. In Yorkshire and Humberside, attendance at galleries, exhibitions and museums was well above the national average, while in the West Midlands it was considerably below.

Almost 80 per cent of those interviewed attached considerable value to the role of the arts and cultural activities in fostering community spirit.

Mr Everitt added: "The research has provided an opportunity for the public to tell us what they think about the arts. We were amazed by the findings and very gratified. Now it is up to us to give them more of what they want."

Leading article, page 17

RSGB Omnibus Arts Survey (Arts Council, 14 Great Peter St, London SW1P 3NQ; £20)

Firms are fined over death in tunnel

Fines totalling £42,000 were imposed yesterday on the builders of the Channel tunnel and the maker of a huge boring machine used under the seabed after they admitted failing to ensure the safety of a miner killed in the workings (David Young writes).

The Channel tunnel builder, Trans Link Joint Venture, was fined £30,000 at Maidstone crown court. The maker of the tunnel boring machines, Robbins Markham Joint Venture, was fined £12,000.

Gary Woodward, aged 32, a Sheffield miner died in 1989 when trapped by a boring machine in the southbound tunnel. Hugh Carlisle, for the prosecution, said: "He was caught in the revolving machinery as it moved through the tunnel. There was no escape."

Judge Waley said that Mr Woodward's death was caused by a faulty switch on the boring machine.

Baker refers Judith Ward bombing case to appeal court

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE case of Judith Ward, jailed for life in 1974 for an IRA bombing in Yorkshire which killed 12 people, was referred to the Court of Appeal yesterday by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary. Serious doubts about the scientific evidence against Ward, now aged 42, are said to have emerged after a Home Office review of the case.

Ward has never appealed against her conviction, but earlier this year, after the release of the Birmingham Six, Mr Baker ordered officials to re-examine the forensic evidence against her. The referral of her case to the appeal court is believed to be the first initiated by the Home Office without formal representations by other parties.

Nine soldiers, a civilian woman and two children died when a bomb destroyed an army coach on the M62 near Leeds. Ward received 12 life

terms, plus 30 years for conspiring to cause two other IRA bombings on the mainland.

Police confessed to playing a key part in the atrocities and her statements were apparently backed up by scientific tests that purportedly showed that she had handled nitroglycerine immediately before the bombings. Her defence lawyers, however, said that she was disturbed and prone to fantasising and that her "confessions" were riven with inconsistencies. Ward now strongly protests her innocence.

The key forensic evidence cited during the trial was gathered by Frank Skuse, the Home Office scientist whose Griess test for explosives was seriously discredited after the quashing of the convictions earlier this year of the Birmingham Six. During their third and successful appeal in March, Lord Justice Mustill

described the Griess process as no more than a preliminary screening test.

Police had to abandon Ward's first confession because it was so inconsistent. She admitted planting the bomb on the coach at Manchester bus station, but enquiries showed that she was at a party in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, at the time. Later, however, she made a series of confessions in which she said she had carried out reconnaissance for two other IRA members.

During her trial at Wakefield crown court, the crown admitted that some of Ward's statements to police were false, but it maintained that the forensic evidence against her was overwhelming. The IRA issued a statement midway through the proceedings saying that she had had nothing to do with the bombings.

Partly because of the phlegmatism Ward displayed for many years towards her conviction, her case has never aroused the kind of passion or concerted effort that went into the campaigns to free the Maguire Seven, Guildford Four or Birmingham Six. However, in recent years, concern has grown that she, too, fell victim to a criminal justice system too eager to ascribe guilt in the wake of a chilling crime.

The decision to refer the case back to the appeal court was widely welcomed. Roy Hattersley, shadow home secretary, said he hoped the appeal could be conducted as speedily as possible. "There has been grave disquiet about the conviction almost from the day it was made," he said.

Mr Baker said yesterday that, after the release of the Birmingham Six, he had appointed a team at the Home Office to examine other convictions where there were doubts about forensic evidence. "As a result of that review, I am satisfied the case should be referred to the Court of Appeal, particularly to test the validity and soundness of the forensic evidence," he said.

Amies woos the young set

By LIZ SMITH, FASHION EDITOR

AT 82, Sir Hardy Amies shows little sign of easing up on his distinguished career. A new division was added to his international fashion empire yesterday with the launch in London of the Hardy Amies knitwear collection, priced from £45 for a simple tank top to £60 for a crisp tunic dress in white and navy stripes.

"It is simple, snappy and young. Maybe it will bring me a new generation of customer, the daughters of all our existing clientele," Sir Hardy said as he showed off the tunic tops, short pleated skirts and swingy culottes in the new spring line. Seen in the photograph, all in navy and white, are a sleeveless dress, a sleeveless top with pleated skirt, and a long sleeved dress.

The collection, produced in three Derbyshire mills, consists of straight skirts as well as fashionable pleated skirts, both short and long for evening. Shorts and knitted trousers have been added to wear with cardigan jackets and sleeveless tops for a complete holiday wardrobe. Nautical stripes in red, navy, pink with white add a distinctly 1920s flapper feel.

"These are clothes for the good times," Ken Fleetwood, head of the Amies design studio, said. It is knitted ready-to-wear, rather than a collection of casual sweaters. They will no doubt be welcomed as easy-to-pack clothes by his jet-set couture clientele or his selected royal customers who occasionally take a holiday on board HMS Britannia.



DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Rice banned

Tim Rice, the musical writer, was banned from driving for two weeks yesterday for speeding. He was caught driving his BMW at 102mph on the Bodmin bypass in Cornwall. Bodmin magistrates were told. Rice, aged 46, who gave his address as Shaftesbury Avenue, central London, said he was driving from London to his house in Cornwall and did not realise his speed was so high. He was fined £120.

Final salute

Thames Valley has become the first police force in Britain to tell constables not to salute senior officers. Brian Reynolds, Thames Valley's deputy chief constable, said: "We are a civilian organisation and not a military one. Saluting is outdated, out-moded and has no place in a modern police force." It is expected that other forces will follow the move to end the 150-year-old tradition.

Clues to killer

Police hunting the killer of the teenager Lynne Rogers, of Catford, south London, who was last seen at Charing Cross Station, London, were yesterday following up new information after leafleting thousands of rail commuters.

Eggs penalty

Graham Harden, aged 31, a trainee electrician, of Beccles, Suffolk, was fined £1,500 at Fakenham, Norfolk, after admitting taking 365 eggs of protected birds. He was caught at a National Trust reserve.

Abattoir attack

Four lorries were wrecked by firebombs at the PMC Meats abattoir at Canterbury, Kent. Animal rights activists are thought to be responsible.

WWF wants 40% fishing fleet cut

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

COD and haddock in the North Sea face near-extinction unless there is a radical overhaul of the European Community's fisheries policy, including a 40 per cent cut in the size of fishing fleets, according to a report published yesterday by the World Wide Fund for Nature.

The report is by Michael Holden, a former senior official in the EC's fisheries directorate in Brussels. He believes that the policy he helped to devise 10 years ago is fundamentally flawed and has stimulated a damaging "race for fish". The policy is due for review next year.

"The simple truth is that there are too many vessels chasing too few fish," Mr Holden said. "Fishermen must be given a realistic financial incentive to quit and fleets must be slimmed down

to allow stocks to rebuild and to lay the basis for a viable and profitable industry." Scientists estimate that the spawning stock of cod in the North Sea has fallen since 1985 from 107,000 tonnes to 78,000 tonnes and that of haddock from 231,000 tonnes to 81,000 tonnes.

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations welcomed the report. Richard Banks, the federation's chief executive, said: "A 40 per cent cut over 10 years would not be unrealistic."

John Gummer, the agriculture and fisheries minister, said he needed time to study the report. The government has strongly opposed de-commissioning grants, arguing that an earlier experiment in the mid-1980s cost a lot of money without greatly reducing the fishing effort.

to allow stocks to rebuild and to lay the basis for a viable and profitable industry." Scientists estimate that the spawning stock of cod in the North Sea has fallen since 1985 from 107,000 tonnes to 78,000 tonnes and that of haddock from 231,000 tonnes to 81,000 tonnes.

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations welcomed the report. Richard Banks, the federation's chief executive, said: "A 40 per cent cut over 10 years would not be unrealistic."

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Press warned on repeating errors

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

DIRECT government control of the press can be avoided only if newspapers stop repeating errors for which they have already been reprimanded, Lord McGregor of Durris, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said yesterday.

No newspaper has yet repeated a violation of the industry code of conduct, but if there was evidence of systematic flouting of commission rulings, the next government could introduce statutory regulation, he said.

Under the terms of last year's Calcutt report into privacy and the press, the industry has until next June to show that the worst abuses of the tabloid press can be curbed through self-regulation. Yesterday, Lord McGregor said he was confident that news-

papers were up to the task. He pointed to a significant decline in the number of complaints upheld for invasions of privacy and misleading coverage since the commission replaced the Press Council last January.

The commission received 714 complaints in the first six months of this year, compared with 818 received by the Press Council in the same period of 1990. Only 11 complaints, involving ten newspapers, were upheld between January and June.

● The Guild of British Newspaper Editors has called on John Major to include in his citizen's charter a section that will guarantee press freedom, giving the right of public access to official documents and limits on secrecy.

Media, page 31

St Augustine's parish falters

By DAVID YOUNG

THE tiny parish of Stone, first formed in the fields of Kent by St Augustine at the end of the sixth century and one of the oldest on record, is facing the ignominy of being dissolved.

Arthur Percival, a local historian, is hoping to persuade Swale council that the parish should remain in existence, but under the rules of the Local Government Boundary Commission it will have to be removed from the roll as no electors are registered in the area. The process of incorporating the parish into two neighbouring ones could take up to two years, but unless the cornfields which at present make up the parish sprout new residents its future would seem to be doomed.

A Boundary Commission official said: "Parishes can only exist where there is a parish register of electors and in cases like that we have to ask the local authority in-

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For Chaucer, read Forsyth or maybe Collins

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR



Collins: not required reading for A-levels yet

STANDARDS of A-level examinations are becoming unacceptably low, a senior headmaster said yesterday.

Chaucer was giving way to Frederick Forsyth's *Day of the Jackal* in English literature, Geoffrey Parker, chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, said. "Next time, Jilly Cooper, Jackie Collins, the poetry of Pam Ayres?"

Mr Parker, high master of Manchester Grammar School, told the conference's annual meeting in Cambridge: "There is little doubt that academic education is under threat. We have all seen it to some extent with GCSE - kitchen sink science, questions so easy that

they make our pupils laugh. We are seeing it in the dilution of A-level and in the well-orchestrated efforts of those who wish to annihilate this examination.

"Delighted as I am that so few of my pupils now fail A-level, I remain concerned that examinations tell me that examinations are easier, that the results are regularly higher than they expected, and that university does now almost universally complain of the noticeable lack of knowledge among their current pupils as compared with those of three or so years ago. We are up against a further dilution of academic rigour." Failing

standards were inevitable as more and more teenagers were taking A-levels, Mr Parker said.

Originally intended for the top 18 per cent of pupils aged 18 the examination was now aimed at the top 33 per cent. Mr Parker said that Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* was once used for O-level but was now on A-level papers.

Robin Wilson, headmaster of Trinity school, Croydon, said that students using the English literature paper set by the University of London examining board could choose a selection of books and plays including, for example, an anthology of first world war

poems for women. *Twelfth Night*, *Cold Comfort Farm* and *The Day of the Jackal*, rather than *Antony and Cleopatra*, and the works of Chaucer and Jane Austen.

"The alternative books are a pretty cosy read. The point is that at the end of it all, everybody ends up with an A-level regardless of the books they have read."

Adrian Woodthorpe, deputy chief executive of the London University examination board, said last night: "The *Day of the Jackal* is one of 24 books from the reading list. If teachers do not feel they wish to take that book they are not obliged to do so."

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Peugeot electric car on sale in two years

By KEVIN EASON

PEUGEOT is to be the first mass vehicle manufacturer to have an electric car on sale in Britain.

The French company yesterday disclosed plans to have two battery-powered saloon cars for sale, based on best-selling petrol models, within two years. The batteries will be recharged from mains electricity to give them a range of about 150 miles.

Peugeot has produced the most ambitious plans yet seen among European manufacturers to bring electric cars to the marketplace. Other car makers are busy producing prototypes of futuristic vehicles, for sale mainly in America towards the end of the century. Peugeot, however, has developed a version of its 205 that uses conventional batteries under the bonnet instead of a petrol or diesel engine. Peugeot will also offer a version of its new 106 small car, a range which will be unveiled in the UK next month.

Corrado Prevara, Peugeot's director of information, said: "We are very confident that we can have cars on sale in

France in 18 months and in Britain probably in 24 months. Although the cars at the moment have a range of about 150 miles, technology is changing rapidly and much work is being done on the batteries so that these cars are improving all the time."

The limitations of car batteries, which are heavy and expensive, has limited the development and acceptance of electric cars. Peugeot says that stricter exhaust emission laws, added to increasing public pressure for cleaner air in cities, will spur the large-scale introduction of electric cars.

The company expects to make initial sales to public utilities and local authorities, which use large numbers of vehicles. Peugeot already provides electric vehicles for some of the French utility companies.

The cost of the electric vehicles is likely to be substantially more than petrol cars because of the cost of the batteries.

After years in the doldrums, electric cars have suddenly been brought back into focus by new anti-pollution laws in

America. The California state government is demanding that 2 per cent of the cars sold by manufacturers in 1998 are "zero emission" models. That effectively means they must introduce electric cars.

BMW was one of a dozen manufacturers that showed off an electric prototype at the Frankfurt motor show last week but the company admitted the car would not be available for sale until nearly 1998 and then only in the United States.

Peugeot's plans to make some kind of electric vehicle available as soon as possible come as recent figures show that sulphur dioxide levels in London are twice that of European Community guidelines on the hottest days of the year while doctors report increasing numbers of asthma sufferers, mainly because of pollution.

Officials at the environment department are now considering advising motorists to leave their cars at home on the worst days of pollution or introducing regulations forcing drivers to switch off their engines at traffic lights.



Royal hopefuls: Mary Anne Coburn, who plays the Queen in a production of Roald Dahl's *The BFG*, puts corgis through their paces in London yesterday. She was looking for dogs to portray one of the royal corgis in the children's play, which opens for a two-month Christmas season at the Aldwych theatre on November 26 (Robin Young writes).

The show has already completed a 20-week tour, with different corgis taking the role in each town.

London, with two performances a day for eight weeks, will require several canine cast members and a few understudies. Two favourites for the starring role are Cash MacNally's Honey, who has played to packed houses in Crawley, Surrey, and Diana King's Suzie, who walked through the part in Wimbledon.

Mrs King said: "I think it is likely that the producers will always prefer bitches for stage appearances, because dogs have a bad

habit of cocking their legs to mark new territory. Suzie is the sweetest little thing, and completely unfazed by bright lights and crowds."

The dogs, not qualifying for Equity membership, get no appearance money, but are promised recompense in the form of biscuits, bones and walks under bright lights. Mrs King said that if Suzie won she would also require travelling expenses, or preferably a chauffeured limousine to carry her to and from each performance.

Three to re-enter new election for European court

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A SECOND election for the post of the United Kingdom judge on the European Court of Human Rights is to be held only months after the controversial election of Sir John Freeland, QC, to the court.

Sir John, a former government lawyer, was elected in April in the wake of the retirement of the previous British judge, Sir Vincent Evans, amid criticisms that the government's choice of candidates indicated its failure to take human rights seriously. However, the Foreign Office yesterday confirmed that, contrary to what was widely understood, Sir John's election was solely for the residue of the original nine-year term for which Sir Vincent was elected in January 1983.

The nine-year term expires in January 1992 and a new election will therefore have to take place for a British member to the court for a second nine-year term. The election is likely to take place in the new year session of the consultative assembly of the Council of Europe but candidates' names will have to be before the committee of ministers meeting on November 26.

The nomination of Sir John and of another barrister, Henry Steel, earlier this year prompted protests from lawyers, who said that there were candidates far better qualified to serve in the post. Both Sir John and Mr Steel have spent most of their careers working for the British government. The other nominee was Lady

Fox, aged 62, who edits the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*.

At the time, one lawyer said: "It is widely felt at the Bar that the nominations we make for Strasbourg are seen by Strasbourg as indicating the attitude the UK takes to it. Until we begin nominating people who are international lawyers of international reputation or High Court or Court of Appeal judges, Strasbourg is going to conclude that we do not want to take the court seriously."

It is understood that all three names will go forward again for the second election. Sir John Freeland, aged 64, a consultant to dependent territories on United Nations human rights instruments, spent his legal career mainly in the Foreign Office. Mr Steel, aged 65, leads the United Kingdom delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission and advises the British Antarctic Territory.



Fox: named again for second election

CPS move condemned by judges

PROPOSALS backed by the Director of Public Prosecutions for crown prosecutors to conduct cases in the crown court have been condemned by the Council of Circuit Judges as dangerous and marking "a fundamental change in the process of criminal prosecution" (Frances Gibb writes).

The judges say that if Crown Prosecution Service lawyers move into the crown court, the CPS could become "not only a monopoly supplier of work, but also a near-monopoly performer". "We do not wish to see a stage where all or even the bulk of prosecuting in the crown court is done by quasi-governmental employees who are taken on at an early post-qualification stage and trained and controlled by their colleagues," they say.

The judges also accuse the CPS of failing to provide a proper service in preparing cases for the crown court. "We do not doubt the determination of the DPP to provide an efficient service, but our members see what is happening in open court every day," they say.

The comments are in a submission to the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee under Lord Griffiths, which has a key role in implementing government reforms aimed at breaking the Bar's monopoly of advocacy rights.

Overdose effects unknown

THE side-effects suffered by a leukaemia victim after he was given a large overdose of a chemotherapy drug had never been seen before, the inquest into his death heard yesterday.

Lee Rainford, an engineer, of Walsley, Merseyside, died aged 23 in September last year. The cause of death has been identified as an overdose of Vindesine, one of three drugs used in his treatment. Dr Patrick Keohane, medical director of the pharmaceutical manufacturer Eli Lilly, said that Mr Rainford's symptoms were a new phenomenon in the history of Vindesine.

The inquest at Bromborough, Merseyside, was told that Mr Rainford suffered a painful widespread skin rash and jaundice prior to his death at a point when he seemed to be recovering from leukaemia. Questioned by Kieran Coonan, QC, for Wirral Health Authority, Dr Keohane said that the one other recorded case of a Vindesine overdose had not resulted in such side-effects.

Christopher Johnson, the Wirral coroner, has told the inquest that a fatal error by medical staff led to Mr Rainford being given four times the amount of Vindesine prescribed. Instead of receiving the drug twice in eight days he was given it every day. The inquest, expected to last two weeks, continues today.

New Viking threat to Europe's heads

By KERRY GILL

THE fearsome reputation of Thorfinn Hausakiuf, the ninth century earl of Orkney, is being celebrated again, in the form of a particularly powerful bottled beer.

"Skullsplitter", as Thorfinn was known for his method of dispatching rebellious Orcadians, is the name of the beer made in Britain's most northerly brewery, which is on the brink of expanding throughout the country and into Europe. Its brewer is Roger White, an English teetotal ex-publican, who founded the Quoyle brewery in an old schoolhouse at Sandwick on the Orkney mainland.

Skullsplitter is the first Scottish beer to be selected as a finalist in the Great British Beer Festival. Benignly marketed as a winter warmer, it has been described by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) as a "redoubtable 1080 OG with a powerful vinous character, the ideal drink to keep out the winter's blast".

Yesterday, Orkney Enterprise announced that it was providing finance to allow Mr White to expand his

business and increase his workforce to five by early next year. The staff includes Mr White's wife, Irene, who is in charge of sales and finance, and sticking the labels on bottles of Skullsplitter. The brewery also produces three other beers: Raven - after the banner of the Viking earls who ruled Orkney from 872 until 1468 - Dark Island and Dragonhead.

Mr White, aged 51, moved to Orkney in 1981 and bought the schoolhouse. "I had no idea what it might be used for until I read a newspaper article about small, independent brewers, so I thought that's for me," he said. Being teetotal was a benefit rather than a drawback. "It is just like being a wine or a tea-taster. If you watch them, they never swallow the stuff. Swallowing ruins your palate and you cannot really taste the next mouthful."

Old Skullsplitter himself, after a bloody career quelling the native Picts, died in his sleep. The Orkneying Saga, translated last century, does not recall whether he passed away after a night of carousing.

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China puts damper on Hong Kong optimism

By DAVID WATTS and JONATHAN BRAUDE in HONG KONG

CHINA has rejected the Foreign Office's optimistic view of the possibilities for the advancement of Hong Kong democracy after the strong election showing by the democrats.

The senior Chinese official in charge of Hong Kong affairs, Lu Ping, has dismissed the democratic victory in the colony's elections as unrepresentative of political reform. Speaking at the same conference on investment in Hong Kong, organised by the brokers Smith, New Court, which was addressed by the foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, Mr Lu said the victory by the United Democrats of Hong Kong "cannot represent the orientation of political reform in Hong Kong."

BBC starts TV news for Asia

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JUST a month after Western broadcasters demonstrated their power to undermine authoritarian regimes with the collapse of the Soviet coup, the BBC's World Service has announced the launch of a 24-hour television news channel that will be beamed direct to China by satellite.

The first World Service Television channel to challenge the American Cable News Network with around-the-clock news bulletins will also be broadcast to 37 other Asian countries. Live broadcasts in English from London will be sent by satellite to Hong Kong to be transmitted on AsiaSat.

The broadcasts will start on October 14 with a two-hour service expanding to 24 hours a day by November 15. Simultaneous translations into Mandarin and Cantonese will come soon afterwards.

All the members of the United Democrats yesterday asked Government House for majority representation on the council for people with democratic inclinations. The meeting with the governor was described as cordial, consisting of an exchange of principles. Today the party will present a list of 24 suitable personalities for appointment to the body.

The governor is understood to be considering appointing some directly elected members to the executive council, but yesterday made it clear he would do so only if they accepted the principles of confidentiality and collective responsibility. Mr Lee has said he could not accept membership under those conditions. As an elected representative, he could not commit himself to support a decision with which he fundamentally disagreed. Mr Lee said if the governor chose only conservatives prepared to follow the government, right or wrong, "the will of the people would be frustrated and defeated."

Leading article, page 17

Artful judge dodges critics

From MARTIN FLETCHER
in WASHINGTON

CLARENCE Thomas's elevation to the United States Supreme Court looks almost certain after the Senate judiciary committee wound up its marathon grilling of the black conservative nominee on Monday evening in a state of exasperation.

In a masterful display of courteous obfuscation and evasion over five days, Judge Thomas not only gave the committee's Democratic majority no good reason for rejecting him but left the senators less enlightened about his real views than before hearings began. President Bush immediately rang to congratulate his nominee on a performance for which the White House had coached him to near-perfection.

Democrats were left fuming at Mr Thomas's disavowal of almost every controversial position he had taken in the past. "The vanishing views of Judge Thomas have become a major issue in these hearings," Senator Edward Kennedy, from Massachusetts, declared.

In trying "to look into the window of your soul", Patrick Leahy of Vermont said, "I find the shade down quite a ways". Herb Kohl, of Wisconsin, suggested that Mr Thomas had "a philosophy that tends to change with your audience".

The senators tried 70 times without success to elicit Mr Thomas's views on abortion. He professed, to gasps of disbelief, never to have discussed Roe v Wade, the Supreme Court's historic 1973 decision creating a constitutional right to abortion. He claimed not to have read certain articles, not to have meant certain statements, even to have signed a controversial government report without knowing its contents.

A series of pressure groups will testify on Mr Thomas's nomination over the next few days, but congressional sources predict that they will change little and that the 14-strong committee will vote by a comfortable margin to make him only the second black ever to sit on the Supreme Court bench.



Imperial rites: Empress Michiko, with a Shinto priest, visiting the grave of Emperor Showa, the dynastic name applied to Hirohito after his death

Britain presses for UN aid chief

From JAMES BONE in NEW YORK

THE United Nations General Assembly began its 46th annual session yesterday with Britain pressing member states to support the appointment of a UN aid supremo and the creation of an international arms register.

British diplomats spent the weeks before yesterday's festive opening, at which seven new member states were due to be admitted to the United Nations, mustering support for the two initiatives. They hope both will pass as general assembly resolutions before the end of the debate in mid-December.

The desired restructuring of the UN relief system stems from criticism of the organisation's tardy response to the massive flight of the Iraqi Kurds at the end of the Gulf war. Diplomatic sources say Britain has enlisted the support of its European Community partners for the reform and plans to begin distributing an informal plan to other UN members today.

The plan calls for the appointment of a United Nations aid supremo, who would chair a new co-ordinating

committee of all the various UN relief agencies, galvanising the entire system into action. To ensure that enough money is readily available, the European Community plan will propose the creation of a new "revolving fund" for disaster relief. A new UN register would also be set up listing personnel and equipment, such as doctors and helicopters, available for immediate call-up around the world.

Diplomats emphasise that, although such standby units could include troops, the emphasis is on non-military assistance. Britain's proposed aid agency restructuring may run into a wider effort to reform the entire UN secretariat, prepared by an informal 22-nation group that includes Britain's ambassador, Sir David Hannay.

The Australian-led group wants to replace the present top-heavy United Nations secretariat structure with a pyramid system with just four under-secretaries-general — one each for political and security affairs, humanitarian and human rights issues, development and environmental questions and management and finance. The 22-nation plan also foresees the five permanent members of the security council — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States

— relinquishing their control of key posts in the UN's hierarchy.

During consultations on the aid supremo, British diplomats have told other countries the plan is self-contained but could fit comfortably within wider UN administrative reform. But the wider reform effort is not expected to pass in this year's assembly, because governments are reluctant to tie the hands of a new secretary-general due to take over on January 1. Diplomats expect the general assembly merely to ask the incoming secretary-general to study proposals for administrative reforms and report back to next year's session.

Salinas gives new lease of life to one-party system

From ANDREA DABROWSKI in MEXICO CITY

MEXICO's autocratic system, in which the state and the ruling party operate as a single entity, as they did in the Soviet Union until last month's failed coup, has remained almost unchanged for 62 years. Indeed, under President Salinas de Gortari, the economic reformer negotiating a free trade agreement with the United States and Canada, the system emerged with renewed vitality from last month's mid-term congressional elections.

When Señor Salinas first launched his privatisation and free market policies in order to cut down the state's hold on the economy, foreign observers dubbed the policy "salinastrolcha". But the president has repeatedly said that economic reforms must come before political reforms that could destabilise Mexico, and he has pointed to the dangers of President Gorbachev's simultaneous reforms as a case in point.

"Democracy cannot be

consolidated, nor can it prosper, without the appropriate economic conditions. That is why stability is a top priority," he said on a visit to Czechoslovakia earlier this year. Opposition parties from the left and right point out that the argument that only the ruling Institutional Revolutionary party can provide stability has traditionally served as a deterrent to democracy.

Moreover, independent political analysts say the most recent elections, in which the government used massive resources for the party's propaganda and controlled nationwide television in a manner not unlike that in the pre-Gorbachev Soviet Union, showed that President Salinas has no plans for glasnost. Despite the opposition's discontent, Señor Salinas knows that he has the support of the Bush administration in upholding stability before democracy.

The main reason is the free trade agreement that

seeks to link the economies of Mexico, the United States and Canada in a market which could eventually comprise 360 million people. The negotiations, formally begun in June, are proceeding more rapidly than anyone expected, official sources say. The as yet unofficial deadline for signing the deal is expected to be next March.

The free trade agreement is the final linchpin in a process that Señor Salinas set in motion after he took office in December 1988. Called the "virtuous circle" by finance officials, it has consisted of the renegotiation of Mexico's \$94 billion (£55 billion) foreign debt, the attraction of foreign investment, and capital repatriation.

The agreement seeks to lower import tariffs between the three countries, or eliminate them totally in some cases. Mexican officials hope increased flows of foreign investment will create jobs.

Mexico accused of torture

By DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

ANYONE arrested by the police or army in Mexico faces torture from the moment they are picked up, according to Amnesty International. Torture is an almost daily occurrence in the country, it adds.

Within the past two years Amnesty has received hundreds of reports of people being tortured, including many cases in which the victims died, a report says. Despite the seriousness of the problem, the authorities are doing little to put an effective stop to it.

The main torture methods are brutal kicking, near-drowning in water or asphyxiation with plastic bags, forcing mineral water mixed with chili powder into the victims' nostrils, and electric shocks. Death threats and mock executions are also common.

The mayor of a town in the state of Michoacán was badly tortured when he complained about human rights violations committed during an anti-drugs operation in his region.



Brief encounter: Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader, talking to Esperanza Telmo de Landero, the niece of Mexico's former president, José López Portillo, at a Mexican embassy reception in Havana yesterday to mark the country's independence day.

Cuba's communist authorities have sentenced four political dissidents to jail terms of between 10 months and two years for demonstrating outside the state security police headquarters. A spokesman for the attorney-general's office said in Havana yesterday that the four were arrested on September 6 when, as part of a group of more than 20 demonstrators, they called for the release of political prisoners outside Villa Marista, security police headquarters in the suburb of Yibora. A pro-government crowd, which included several plainclothes policemen with portable radios, mobbed the protesters, kicking and pushing them. (Reuters)

Manila allows US year to leave

Manila — The Philippines yesterday withdrew a notice given to the United States evicting American forces upon the termination of the military bases agreement. The government said, since the issue was not final, it accepted that America had one year to withdraw (Abby Tan writes).

The 25-year agreement expired on Monday and the Philippines senate had rejected a new ten-year treaty. President Aquino has called for a national referendum to overrule the senate in a direct ratification process. She said that she would accept the people's decision if they rejected the treaty.

A 1966 agreement provided one year's notice by either party for the bases to close in 1991. In May last year, Manila served notice on America to finish withdrawing by September 16, 1991, which Washington rejected.

The United States has said it will not withdraw until the results of the referendum are known.

Elephant cull

Harare — Conservation authorities have shot 250 elephants in Zimbabwe's first cull for nearly four years which they hope signals the start of regular population reduction operations to prevent the animals' environment from collapsing. The elephants were shot in the Sengwa national park, where construction of a road has forced large numbers of elephants into the national park.

Italian overture

Peking — On a visit to China, Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, invited his counterpart, Li Peng, to visit Italy. Mr Li said Signor Andreotti's visit would promote links and differences in thinking need not get in the way. Ties were disrupted after the 1989 repression of the democracy movement. (Reuters)

Volcano threat

Cagayan de Oro — Twelve thousand villagers on the Philippines island of Mindanao, 450 miles south of Manila, fled their homes after Mount Mayon began spewing out grey ash, the third volcano recently to show signs of life in the islands, which are on the "Ring of Fire" around the Pacific. (Reuters)

Anti-strike bill

Ottawa — The Canadian government has introduced a bill to end a week-long public sector pay strike that it says is ruining the economy. Opposition parties plan to block the bill, saying the government should negotiate. The strike is hitting ports, airports and border crossings. (Reuters)

Traders seized

Delhi — The abduction of four diamond traders has sparked fear among the city's business community, increasingly targeted by professional kidnappers, police said. The car of the four Bombay-based dealers was intercepted after they left a hotel. An employee was also kidnapped. (AFP)

Moth eaten

Peking — Chinese pharmacists have adapted the practice of the emperors hundreds of years ago of eating male silk moths, to cure impotence and prevent ageing, by distilling them into a tonic, the China Daily reported. (AFP)

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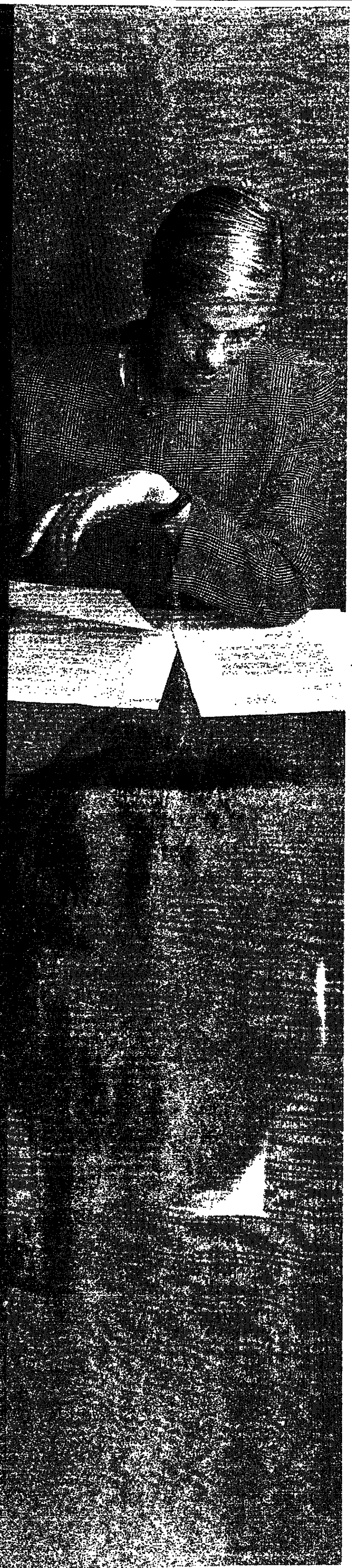
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Manila allows US year to leave

Manila — The Philippine government has agreed to allow the United States to remain in the country for a year after the end of the 1991 military operations. The agreement, which was announced by the Philippine Department of Defense, allows US troops to stay in the country until the end of 1992. This is a significant concession, as the Philippines has traditionally been a non-aligned country. The agreement is seen as a sign of the Philippines' growing dependence on US military support.

Elephant cull

Kenya — Kenyan officials have announced a cull of elephants in the country's national parks. The cull is part of a conservation program aimed at reducing the elephant population to sustainable levels. The program is controversial, as many people in Kenya view elephants as a source of income and a symbol of the country's natural heritage.

Italian overture

Rome — The Italian government has announced a new policy of openness towards the Balkans. The policy is part of a broader strategy to improve relations with the region and to promote economic development. The Italian government has announced that it will provide financial assistance to the Balkan countries and will increase its diplomatic presence in the region.

Volcano threat

Manila — The Philippine government has issued a warning of a possible volcanic eruption in the country. The warning is based on recent seismic activity and the presence of volcanic ash in the air. The government has advised the public to stay away from the affected areas and to take other necessary precautions.

Anti-strike bill

Manila — The Philippine government has introduced a new anti-strike bill in the country's parliament. The bill is aimed at reducing the number of strikes in the country and at ensuring that essential services are not disrupted. The bill has been met with opposition from labor unions, who argue that it would undermine their right to strike.

Traders seized

Manila — The Philippine government has seized a large number of illegal traders in the country. The traders were caught while attempting to smuggle goods across the border. The government has announced that it will continue to crack down on illegal trading and will take further action if necessary.

Moth eaten

Manila — The Philippine government has announced that it will take action against a group of people who are accused of eating moths. The group is said to be a secret society that meets regularly to eat moths. The government has announced that it will investigate the group and will take action if it is found to be a threat to public health.

Germany tries to seize Yugoslav initiative as fascist past haunts Serbia

France insists that warring parties agree to peace force

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

FRANCE yesterday reiterated its support for the despatch of a European peace-keeping force to Yugoslavia, but insisted that the prior agreement of all the warring parties to any such intervention would be essential. Without this, said a spokesman for the Quai d'Orsay, there could be no "judicial foundation" for taking action, and France had no intention of sending troops to be shot at by all sides.

At the same time there were hints that France was looking to the possibility of United Nations intervention in the conflict if the European initiative cannot get off the ground. "We are prepared to consider a mixed European and UN force," the spokesman observed, adding that Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, had discussed the Yugoslav situation with Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general.

Yugoslavia is likely to dominate the brief discussions scheduled today when Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, sees President Mitterrand at the start of his three-day state visit, largely to eastern Germany. Germany is siding openly with Croatia, while France wants a much more even-handed approach.

Germany's hardline stance towards the Serbs, especially the risk of Bonn going it alone on recognition of Croatia and Slovenia, Jacques Chirac, the leader of France's main conservative opposition faction, yesterday lent his support to the despatch of a European peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia. "Europe has a duty to intervene unless things improve quickly," he said. "We simply cannot remain aloof in these circumstances. We must use all possible means to uphold the right of people to decide their own future and preserve peace."

● Brussels: The Dutch suggestion this week that an armed peacekeeping force be sent to Yugoslavia was prompted by German members of the EC's ceasefire monitoring force going on strike (George Brock writes).

As the fighting between Serbia and Croatia grew in scale and intensity over the past week, German members of peace monitoring teams were twice ordered by the government in Bonn to stay in their hotels while the rest of a team went to the war zone. These withdrawals on safety grounds led the leader of the EC's monitoring force to complain that his work was becoming impossible.



Peace mission: Slobodan Milosevic, left, the Serbian president, with Lord Carrington yesterday.

Belgrade whips up fears of Croatia

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

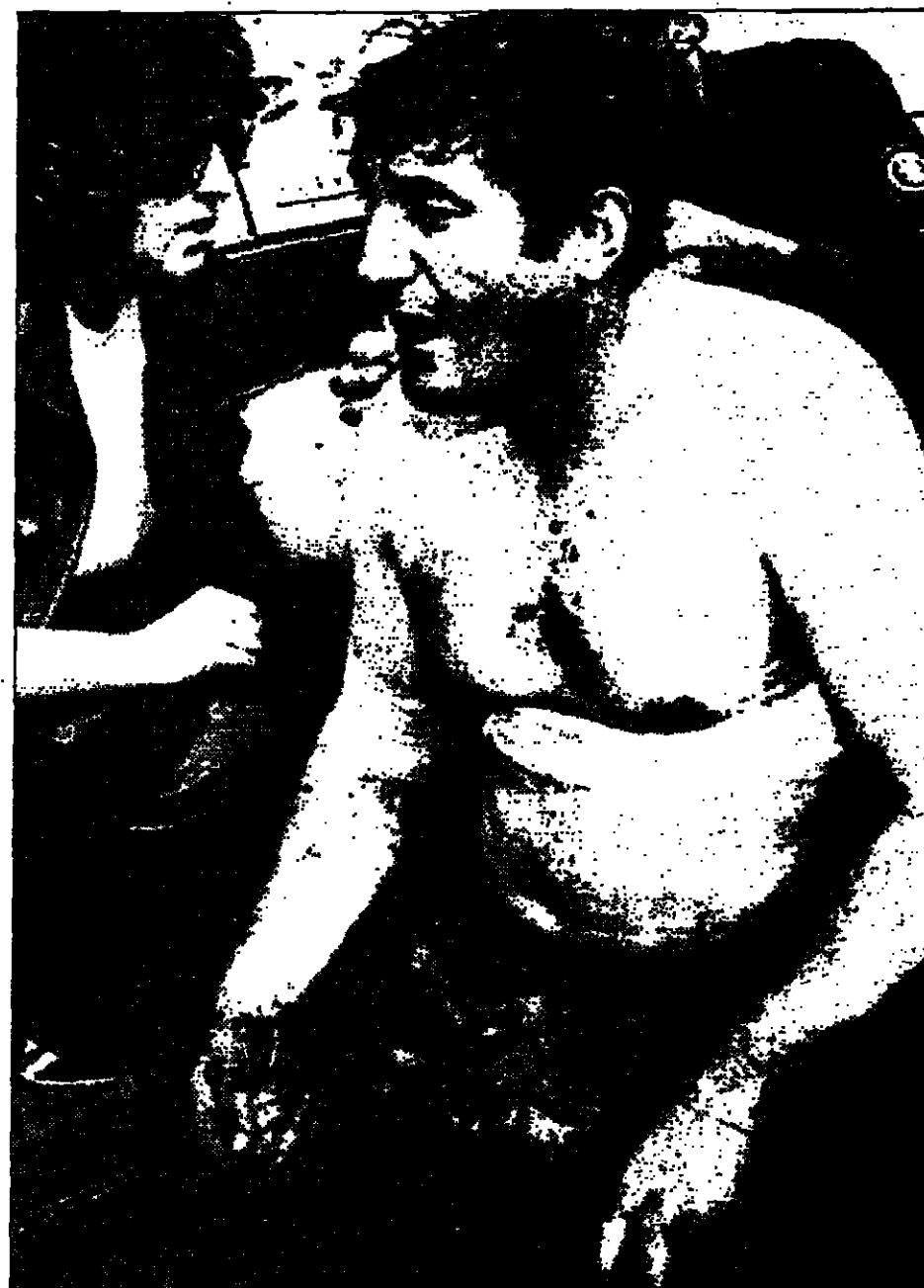
EVEN before the latest cease-fire yesterday, war seemed far from the bustling shops and cafes of Belgrade. But surface images are deceptive, for fear has reached the Serbian capital. But in contrast to the grim determination of Zagreb, the fear here is mixed with pride.

In the market place of the mixed residential area of Vozdovac the talk was of war — although not the one seen by television viewers in London, Paris or Berlin. It is a war that bears testament to the success of a prolonged propaganda campaign by the Belgrade media, which has left people convinced that the hostilities are being waged against Croatian fascism and conniving foreigners.

"I am very pessimistic," said Zoran Vuketic, aged 32, who works for a film company. "A European war may start. There is conflict between the Germans on one side and the British and French on the other. The Germans want war, they are just looking for an excuse, they want access to the Adriatic Sea."

With monotonous frequency, Belgrade television shows documentaries about Croatia's wartime genocidal policies against the Serbs and commentators discuss the rise of the new Austro-German Fourth Reich. It is a view that has made a deep impression and every statement of support for the independence-minded Croats and Slovenes by German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has been served up as proof of the new Germanic evil.

"I am concerned that the conflict is going to spread," said Miodrag Jankovic, aged 67, a pensioner. "The Germans want territory from the Baltic to the Adriatic and Croatia is a German satellite." Another man who would not give his name said: "The Germans and Austrians support the new fascism in Croatia and the French and British will not allow this."



Horrors of war: a wounded Croat soldier receives first aid after saying he survived the killing of 17 of his compatriots by Serb guerrillas dressed in Croatian uniforms

That is why the real war has not started yet."

With so many in Belgrade imagining that 1991 is the prelude to a new world war, European Community peace initiatives, including the latest Carrington mission, are viewed with deep scepticism. "They all have their interests," said Nebojsa Mladenovic, aged 23. "The Germans want to export through the Adriatic, that's what they are interested in."

Mr Mladenovic said the Serbs in Croatia were right to stand up and fight, but asked what he would do if he received his call-up papers, he said: "It's not my war." That

is just typical," said housewife Ljiljana, listening to Mr Mladenovic's views.

"Too many people like the idea of a Serbia that is fighting, it makes them feel good and it makes them proud... but are they prepared to go and fight themselves? Oh no, that would be too much to ask." But she added: "It's disgusting to talk of the rights of Serbs while attacking Croatia. Poor Serbs yes... but it was the Croats who spent last night in their bomb shelters."

● Zagreb: Empty glass display cases and clean squares on the wallpaper where the Rubens, Velasquez and other paintings

hung are all that remain in Zagreb's Mimara Museum. Hundreds of paintings, vases, oriental rugs and other art objects taken away to a secret location for safekeeping during the fighting in Croatia.

But buildings are more at risk. Blue and white pendants, designating monuments of cultural significance protected under an international convention have been hung from palaces, churches and medieval town centres. "These signs are supposed to stop soldiers shooting at the buildings but I don't know what good they will do if they bomb us," said Tugomir Lukic, the museum's curator.

WEU is split on special mission

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SENDING a peacekeeping force of 30,000 soldiers to Yugoslavia would provide the nine-nation Western European Union with its biggest challenge since it was formed in 1954.

The proposal, however, has already split the organisation, with Italy yesterday offering to send soldiers, Portugal calling instead for a United Nations force, and both Britain and France remaining reluctant to place troops in the firing line. At the union's meeting of foreign and defence ministers in The Hague tomorrow, the Dutch are expected to suggest a much smaller force of about 5,000 troops to support the 150 monitors already in Yugoslavia. But, as a British official said: "Five thousand troops couldn't cover the sea in Yugoslavia."

British officials have said that a minimum of 10,000 troops would be necessary, with a month being needed to build up such a force, assuming it were multinational, assembling the different units would be undertaken on a piecemeal basis as it was for the Gulf operation. Italy would be the obvious aging post for flying troops.

Officials in London remained adamant yesterday that there could be no question of British troops being sent in a peacekeeping role. India tried to superimpose peace on Sri Lanka but, instead of keeping the warring factions apart, Indian troops became the main target.

One of the greatest difficulties for the European troops would be in deciding who was at fault for any breach of the ceasefire and what action should be taken. "It's not like the Gulf war where the Iraqi were the bad guys," a British official said.

Some defence experts suggested that jet fighters would be needed to protect European ground forces, but it seems unlikely that any European union member would wish to send in combat aircraft.

Moscow plotters' lawyers claim fair trial impossible

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

IN THEIR first public appearance, lawyers for the arrested coup leaders yesterday accused President Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and other leaders of making a fair trial impossible because of statements prejudicial to the outcome.

They also claim that the investigators had violated Soviet legal procedures, refused them access to documents and had leaked information to the media which had virtually condemned the defendants without any proof.

Six lawyers, representing Valentin Pavlov, the former prime minister, Vladimir Kryuchkov, the former head of the KGB, Anatoli Lukyanov, the former chairman of parliament and others, denounced the way the investigation was being conducted, saying that their clients were victims of a show trial. They said that they had been refused access to evidence, their clients' notes had been confiscated and they had been confronted with charges that were inappropriate and dealt with protecting the Soviet Union from Western infiltration.

They insisted that they respected public opinion but called for glasnost in the proceedings. They said several defendants, including Mr Pavlov and Mr Lukyanov, were seriously ill in hospital. The

lawyers refused to agree that their clients had staged a coup: that was up to the court to judge. The cases have caused controversy and anguish, as there are no precedents in post-revolutionary history for a fair hearing of treason charges. In Stalin's day, defendants on trumped up charges were tortured, forced to confess, paraded in the courtroom and then shot. Now the prosecutors are determined to show scrupulous fairness, and announced yesterday that 97 experts are collecting evidence, with representatives from most republics helping the Russian prosecutor.

Amnesty International has appealed to Moscow to spare the men the death penalty if found guilty. Ironically, their lawyers, who insisted that they did not want to turn back the clock, are comparing the cases to past show trials. "Nothing is clear or proven," Mr Lukyanov's advocate said. "We hope any judgment will not be made on political grounds."

Communists and others sympathising with the coup's aims have used claims of improper proceedings to allege that a witch-hunt is underway. In a further irony, many are appealing to Helsinki human rights monitors to defend former party members from discrimination and unfair prosecution.

Soviet youth embraces the world of western decadence

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

FOR a cynical generation, sick of communism and alienated from Soviet society, the attempted coup released a pent-up wave of frustration. It also gave young people a sense of purpose.

The purpose has been to smash the communist system. At first it was muffled: only a tiny proportion of Moscow's young people linked arms to protect Boris Yeltsin. But as barricades grew and the myth of defiance spread, thousands took to the streets.

Since the coup they have also smashed the organisation that for 70 years tried to fetter their freedom and mould their thinking: the Komsomol (Communist League of Youth). At a recent meeting of its central committee, delegates admitted that any attempt to keep Komsomol in being as an all-union body was "hopeless". Few will mourn the passing of Komsomol, or of the Young Pioneers, the junior school branch of the party that has discarded its red kerchief, songs and ideology. Joining Komsomol was not obligatory, but those wanting to get ahead were expected to do so.

In many ways Komsomol, once boasting 42 million members, came to resemble Orwell's junior anti-sect league — a killjoy organisation that preached a hypo-

critical puritanism and disapproved of all Western influence. It was militantly atheistic.

This attempt to turn back the tide only underlined the extraordinary hold these influences have over Soviet youth today. Rock has virtually become a religion. It is the only thing many believe in.

Rock and heavy metal have also been linked to skinheads, neo-nazis and bikers — all common in

nationalist revival of the Russian Orthodox Church. Evangelical groups are growing fast, with gospel singers handing out leaflets directed especially at the young. The sexual revolution is also fully in the open now. The press dwells at length on this once taboo subject. Samizdat newspapers have explicit personal advertisements. Pornography is available. Prostitution is seen as a sure means of material advance, almost acquiring respectability among ambitious women.

The essence of the entire culture is a rejection of communism. The Afghan war did much to hasten alienation and disdain of the military. Soviet youth has taken up not only Western materialism, but also its individualistic philosophy and the trappings of capitalism — advertising, competition, consumer goods — though without simulating any work ethic.

Coupled with this is a defiant nostalgia for the pre-revolutionary era, a cult of the Whiteguards and Lenin's enemies. It was overwhelmingly the young who voted to rename Leningrad St Petersburg. So far the revolution of the past three weeks has engaged their energy, but not yet brought them back from an alienated world that bears no relation to the values and outlook of their parents.



every big Soviet city. So alienated are many young people from high-rise housing estates that they have formed pro-nazi and other authoritarian groups.

Religion too, is a refuge of the alienated, with a strongly

Sweden awaits coalition

FROM REUTERS IN STOCKHOLM

CARL Bildt, the Swedish Conservative party leader, was officially asked yesterday to try to form a new government but tough talks lie ahead before a new coalition emerges from the general election that swung Sweden to the right.

The ballot on Sunday fell short of giving an absolute majority to a four-party centre-right coalition that ousted the long-ruling social democrats. Any coalition would be at the mercy of the populist New Democracy "fun party", which entered parliament for the first time after wooing voters with an anti-tax programme which it promised would make life "simpler, cheaper and more fun".

The parliamentary speaker, Thage Peterson, asked Mr Bildt, aged 42, to form a new government after a brief meeting yesterday morning. The Conservatives gained 22 per cent of the vote in the elections compared with 18.3 per cent in the 1988 poll, making them by far the largest single party. But Mr Bildt ruled out a minority Conservative government without partners.

"My mission does not include a one-party government... (but) a two, three or four-party government led by me," he told reporters. He said he would hold talks with the other parties and was due to report back to the Speaker on September 24.

Opposition leaders seized from plane

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

A WAVE of anger swept through the Georgian capital as news spread yesterday that two of the country's most prominent opposition leaders had been dragged off a plane and arrested.

However, Zviyad Gamsakhurdia, the republic's volatile nationalist leader, struck a defiant note when he spoke to Western journalists. He dismissed the arrested couple — Georgi (Gia) Chanturia and his wife, Irina — as irresponsible rabble-rousers. "They are hooligans, and they're out to kill me and my family," the president said.

In turn, the Chanturias' supporters in the National Democratic party, one of several opposition groups, brand the president as authoritarian and insincere in his nationalism. As the embattled president spoke to reporters at one end of Rustaveli Avenue, the tree-lined thoroughfare, hundreds of opposition supporters gathered further down to hear supporters of the Chanturias pledge to wage a relentless struggle for their release.

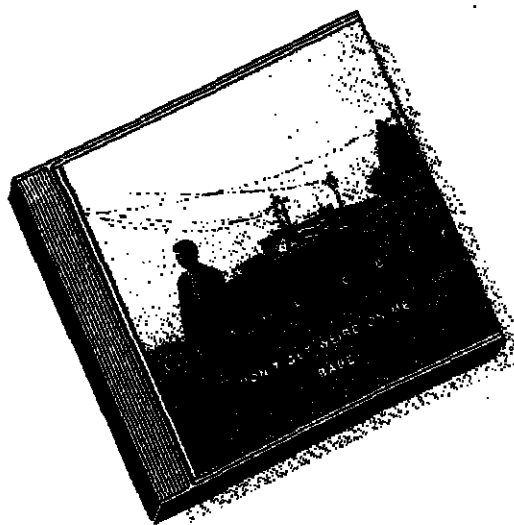
"I will never surrender to this government," said Irakli Tsereteli, the young leader of the National Independence party, which like the National Democratic party, refuses to take part in the Gamsakhurdia-led parliament as long as Georgia is effectively part of the Soviet Union. In an extraordinary

incident, the Chanturias were hauled off a commercial flight which returned mysteriously to Tbilisi airport 20 minutes after taking off for Moscow, where the opposition leaders hoped to meet the American ambassador and senior figures in the government of the Russian Federation. "It was an act of pure brutality, they didn't even try to produce arrest warrants," said Vakhtang Tshaldiz, a National Democratic party activist, who was travelling with the Chanturias and was briefly detained himself.

Mr Chanturia, fiery orator who regains Mr Gamsakhurdia's hopelessly compromised by his willingness to participate in the old Soviet power structure, married fellow-activist, Irina, in the prison when they were both detained in the spring of 1989. Both are Mr Gamsakhurdia's long-standing rivals for the moral leadership of Georgia's nationalist movement.

While taking an uncompromising stance towards his harshest critics, the Georgian president put at an olive branch towards middle-of-the-road opposition figures who in recent days have added their voices to calls for a change of leadership. Members of the small Social Democratic party said that they expected to meet Mr Gamsakhurdia last night. They said they would press for the Chanturias' release.

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Hurd insists Hong Kong democracy must progress after 1997



Lee: the liberal leader won 10 per cent of the vote

AS LIBERAL groups scored a landslide victory in the first partial democratic elections to Hong Kong's Legislative Council, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday told China the process of democratisation must continue beyond the handover of power in 1997.

Signalling that, in the eyes of the Foreign Office, Hong Kong has passed the test of a "successful election" and Peking must make good on its commitment to the Joint Declaration, Mr Hurd said that the elections "open a new and encouraging chapter" in the history of the colony.

The foreign secretary said he hoped that China, "having acquiesced in this step forward into direct democracy, will come to terms with the outcome". Britain and China pledged themselves, during John Major's visit to Peking last month, to discussions on further enhancement of democracy in the colony. But since that visit, the Chinese have been saying they must first see if the legislature "contributes" to good government and

behaves with "responsibility" and "maturity". The relatively low turnout of 39.15 per cent of registered voters, themselves only about 50 per cent of those eligible to vote, appears to have provided the government with the excuse not to confront the Chinese over the issue.

Mr Hurd told the Hong Kong conference in London that Britain had two aims, "steady progress towards a degree of direct election in Hong Kong and that this progress is sustained without interruption after the transfer of sovereignty in 1997".

He said that Martin Lee, head of the pro-democracy United Democrats of Hong Kong, and his allies had fought a lively and successful campaign, based on a call for faster democracy. Mr Lee won a remarkable 10 per cent of the entire vote.

His candidates and their liberal allies took 16 of the 18 seats at stake in Sunday's elections to the 60-seat assembly. Mr Hurd said it was in the interests of all concerned in Hong Kong and China that closer co-operation provided for in the Joint Declaration became a reality. But despite their success, liberals still fear they could be manoeuvred into a minority if the Hong Kong government packs the legislature with unelected conservatives.

Hong Kong's top Chinese official has seized on the low turnout to rule out discussions on a faster pace of democratic development before the British colony reverts to Chinese control. But pro-China forces were convincingly crushed by the liberal rollercoaster. Left-wing candidates failed to win a single seat.

Ironically, given the traditional perception of Hong Kong as a laissez-faire haven for pragmatic businessmen, the conservative business-backed Liberal Democratic Foundation was similarly routed.

Only a traditional rural conservative and one middle-of-the-road independent, both incumbent members of the legislature with strong local power bases, managed to buck the liberal trend. But with 21 seats in the 60-member council already taken up by representatives of largely conservative sectional interests such as businessmen and industrialists, and the rest under the control of the governor, Sir David Wilson, or reserved for government officials, the liberals risk being confined to a permanent opposition.

Although existing legislators agree the elected minority will command respect and deserve to be listened to, there is so far no guarantee the British colonial administration will bend to their wishes. China has already hinted it will not deal with anti-Peking forces and has denounced Mr Lee as a subversive.

Today, Mr Lee will lead a deputation to the governor asking him to appoint liberal members to the 18 seats under his control, in line with "the clear wishes of the public".

Sir David has until just before the first session of the new legislature on October 9 to decide on his appointments. But officials have spent the past few weeks postponing indefinitely a decision on whether to approach the Chinese for discussions on changes to Hong Kong's post 1997 mini-constitution.

The liberal groups are united in their demand for greater democracy, but Sir David has avoided endorsing their platform. "People go out and vote for different reasons; they don't simply vote because they want more democracy; they vote for the particular candidates and those candidates have different views," he said as polling closed on Sunday. While the governor and his officials emphasise that turnout is not the only issue, the other criteria remain even more nebulous.



Hurd: an encouraging new chapter for the colony

Martin Lee, page 14

Americans back Aquino over bases referendum

From Abby Tan in Manila

THE United States yesterday withheld plans to withdraw from its bases in the Philippines and threw its support behind President Aquino's call for a referendum to overturn the Manila senate's rejection yesterday of the renewal of the bases treaty.

Within minutes of senators voting 12-1 to dismantle the last symbol of a century-old colonial past, the American embassy said withdrawal procedures were "on hold". A spokesman said: "At this time, we are prepared to take the lead from the president [Aquino]."

The senate rejection, after a series of emotional debates, has caused political and economic confusion. Under the old treaty, Washington was given one year to leave Subic naval base and Clark air base if no new treaty were ratified.

Mrs Aquino, in a television broadcast on Sunday, asked the people to come out and vote in a referendum to be held in December.

She feared severe economic problems after a sudden American withdrawal, and said she believed the majority of Filipinos wanted the bases to stay.

The United States statement backing President Aquino said: "We admire her determination and warmly reciprocate her support for the friendship between our two countries. We stand firmly behind the president and her continuous efforts to put in place the new treaty."

The senate rejection came on the day the 1947 bases agreement expired. The new treaty was for a ten-year stay at Subic. Senators said the \$203 million (£116 million) a year compensation offered by the United States was an insult. Senators in favour of the bases staying pleaded for more time to allow a smooth transition so as not to jeopardise the jobs of 80,000 Filipinos.

Mrs Aquino said the United States' continued presence and goodwill was necessary for the Philippines to receive more aid, debt relief and trade access.

She said she had written to President Bush. Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, and other world leaders who endorsed the bases' retention, to explain her government's position. She asked the Philippines' donor countries not to punish it by withdrawing billions of dollars of foreign aid.

President Aquino's plea to accept the treaty was rebuffed by senators, many of whom were once her close advisers. "I vote no, and no, and no," the lone opposition senator, Juan Ponce Enrile, declared. Listing complaints that the treaty stifled Philippine nationalism, he accused Mrs Aquino of incompetence.

"This government did nothing to prepare the country for an inevitable withdrawal that President Aquino built into the 1987 constitution," he said. The greatest hurt for President Aquino came from her brother-in-law, Senator Agapito Aquino, who said: "I love my country more than I love the president." The bases issue has become Mrs Aquino's biggest political disaster, observers said. More urgent economic issues are now being held up.

The drawn-out exercise of a referendum would divide the nation further and discourage foreign investors nervous about an impending American withdrawal. The United States, on the last day of the old agreement, handed over to the Philippines air force two radar stations in north Luzon which had been vital in the operation of Clark.

Police killing: A deputy police chief, his aide and a communist assassin were killed and four civilians wounded in the northern Philippines town of Apalit on Sunday, police said yesterday.

Senior Superintendent Abdulrahman Abdullah, deputy police chief of neighbouring Bulacan province, was visiting a friend when four gunmen belonging to the communist New People's Army shot him dead. The others died in a shootout after Abdullah's security guards fired back.

It was the latest violation of the communist rebels' unilateral ceasefire, declared six days ago in support of the senate's rejection of the bases treaty. (AP)



Flight of fantasy: a young Cambodian boy playing with the controls of a derelict American-made Huey helicopter on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, the capital

Court drops Iran-Contra charges against North

From Reuters in Washington

A FEDERAL judge yesterday granted a request by the Iran-Contra special prosecutor and dropped all criminal charges against Oliver North, the former White House aide who masterminded the covert operation that rocked Ronald Reagan's presidency.

"This terminates the case," Judge Gerhard Gesell said after the prosecutor, Lawrence Walsh, admitted that he would be unable to reinstate the criminal convictions against which Mr North had appealed.

As Mr North's case was dismissed, Robert Gates, now President Bush's deputy national security adviser and his choice to run the Central Intelligence Agency, restated his professed lack of knowledge on the Iran-Contra affair to the Senate intelligence committee, which opened hearings on his nomination as the CIA director.

Mr Gates, aged 47, withdrew as Mr Reagan's nominee in 1987 after questions arose over his role and that of the CIA in the deal. His current hopes depend largely on whether he can convince the Democratic-controlled Senate, which must approve the nomination, by a majority vote, that he told the truth.

In written replies to 67 detailed questions from the committee, Mr Gates said he had no recollection of receiving anything other than flimsy early warnings about key aspects of the scandal. Mr North was convicted in 1989 for his role in selling weapons to Iran between 1985 and 1986 and diverting millions of dollars in profits to the right-wing Nicaraguan Contra rebels, despite a congressional ban on military assistance.

He was found guilty by a jury on three criminal counts of destroying secret White House documents, helping obstruct efforts by Congress to learn about the scandal and accepting an illegal gift — a \$14,000 (£8,000) home security fence. However, a court of appeals last year threw out the first conviction and set aside the other two because witnesses against Mr North might have been improperly influenced by his testimony to Congress.

Mr Walsh declined to say how the action would affect the case involving Mr North's longtime boss at the White House, John Poindexter, the former National Security Adviser. He is appealing his five-count conviction on the same grounds as Mr North.

There are few other comparisons to be made between the Korean and German experiences. Although they speak the same language, ideology has so distorted it that in the two countries identical words no longer have identical meanings.

Pyongyang sees not only a developing relationship between Moscow and Seoul in which ideology plays no part, but its other close partner, Peking, is itself moving to modernise its economy and becoming increasingly inward-looking, with little advantage to be gained from utilizing its surrogate on the Korean peninsula for international adventures.

As Dr Hong Koo Lee, the South Korean ambassador to London, said yesterday: "The dramatic success of Nordpolitik has significantly expanded the scope and depth of South Korea's foreign relations, perhaps at the expense of North Korea's. The new unification formula to create a Korean commonwealth, which guarantees the co-existence of the two systems while promoting co-operation between them to develop a single national community, has simultaneously reduced the effectiveness of North Korea's

Korean entry to UN signals defeat for Kim

By David Watts, Diplomatic Correspondent

IN A world of decreasing tension, North Korea remains a "wild card", but one which today comes notionally under global supervision as the two Koreas join the United Nations.

Nothing could better illustrate the new realities than the simultaneous arrival in Seoul of a special envoy from President Gorbachev to discuss aid and to thank South Korea for its support during the recent attempted coup in Moscow.

The admission of the two countries into the world body is a signal defeat for the North and a measure of its isolation after the rapid series of changes taking place in its two closest allies, China and the Soviet Union. Pyongyang had always insisted that it would never join the UN until Korea took up its membership as a unified nation. Unstated in that was its insistence on unification under the "Great Leader", Kim Il Sung.

The experience of East and West Germany taught Seoul that it could not afford unification of any kind. South Korean studies of the German example showed that it would cost \$400 billion (£230 billion), the majority of which would have fallen due in Seoul.

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Islands find a place in the sun

From James Pringle, Majuro, Marshall Islands

THE Baltic states and the two Koreas may receive the world's attention when they take their United Nations seats today. They certainly have suffered in the postwar world, but so too have the forgotten Marshall Islands, children of the nuclear age whose government will also take its place in the UN General Assembly.

The Marshall Islands (population 47,000), named after a British seafarer, Captain John Marshall, who discovered them in 1788, and the neighbouring Federated States of Micronesia, were administered for nearly 40 years after the second world war by America under a UN trusteeship.

Washington is linked to both states in a "compact of free association" until 2001; after that, US funding will end. America will look after defence for both states, which must remain closed to other foreign military unless the US agrees. "It is doubtful they are both really independent," an Asian diplomat said.

In the Marshalls, from 1946 to 1958, the US conducted atom and hydrogen bomb tests on Bikini and Eniwetok, counter to the trusteeship. Two other atolls, Rongelap and Utirik, were exposed to radioactive fallout.

The Americans set up a fund to benefit those affected by the tests. The latest issue of the *Marshall Islands Journal* carried a truly chilling advertisement relating to the US-sponsored Nuclear Claims Tribunal listing 25 separate medical conditions stemming from the tests, and compensation from each: leukaemia £73,500; multiple myeloma £73,500; breast cancer £58,800; severe mental retardation, £58,800; malignant tumours of the salivary gland, £29,400.

Many people here suffered from these tests, such as the elderly Paul Irujiman who last month collected an advance on his £36,700 award. The £12.9 million annual rent provides one third of the Marshalls budget; 85 per cent of the economy depends on American aid. Coconut oil and copra are the only exportable commodities.

Andreotti accepts Peking law degree

From Catherine Sampson in Peking

GIULIO Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, yesterday broke ranks with the leaders of other leading industrialised countries by accepting an honorary law degree from Peking university.

The campus, at the heart of the 1989 democracy movement, has been tightly controlled since. Several students died in the Tiananmen Square mass killings, and many more have been expelled because of their involvement. The treatment of students and others involved in the demonstrations has been far from lawful in many cases.

Signor Andreotti, hailed by the president of the university, Wu Shuang, as a "world-famous scholar", declared himself "greatly honoured". But he has cancelled his meeting with Jin Luxian, the Bishop of Shanghai, who is a representative of the officially sanctioned Catholic church in China. Italian Catholics had been outraged that their prime minister was to be seen to sanction the official Catholic church, which has broken its links with the Vatican, while underground Catholics are still persecuted.

The European Community ban on high-level visits to Peking, imposed after the 1989 killings, has never officially been rescinded, but John Major has said that Britain's responsibilities towards Hong Kong required that he make his recent trip. Signor Andreotti's concerns are believed to focus primarily on trade.

Italy is China's second biggest trading partner in Western Europe, and Signor Andreotti has signed an agreement on space co-operation with China during his visit. His visit turns the trickle of high-level visitors to the Chinese capital into a flow, and clears the way for other European leaders to follow. In addition to Mr Major, Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, has visited Peking within the past two months.

Unlike Mr Major, Signor Andreotti has steered clear of human rights issues. Members of his delegation say that the Italian prime minister has "made passing mention" of the crackdown on pro-democracy activists in his talks with

Slum bulldozers threaten Delhi street performers

From Christopher Thomas in Delhi



Future up in the air: a young juggler living in Shadipur Depot tries to ignore his bleak prospects

INDIA'S most remarkable slum is to be demolished. Shadipur Depot is home to musicians, puppeteers, snake charmers, actors, acrobats, jugglers, magicians, animal trainers, fortune-tellers, dancers and contortionists — some of the last survivors of a once great tradition of itinerant street performers.

They have been overtaken by video games, television and video recorders. Living in squalor, many are drug addicts. Animal trainers sit idly in field alleys with their monkeys and bears; musicians play to themselves; children walk tightropes for their own amusement; an unwashed magician swallows swords and eats fire.

The area is named after a bus garage that it adjoins in

northwest Delhi. The 600 families have been offered new land on the outskirts of the city, far from the tourists who offer the last hope of big tips. Fewer than half have said they are willing to move.

Performing families have squatted in mud huts on this patch of land for 30 years. Delhi corporation is threatening to send in the bulldozers because it wants to extend the bus depot. A more prosperous neighbouring slum will be untouched; unlike Shadipur, it has been able to pay for protection.

For now, however, life in Shadipur goes on. Puppeteers are carving wooden dolls; a girl writes on the ground in an elaborate snake dance; a boy juggles swords; painters produce story pic-

tures on canvas which will be acted out to a cacophony of drums and music. For many, the only work comes from government departments that want the performers to convey messages against alcohol, drugs and dowry.

Many people in Shadipur have performed at festivals of India in Washington, New York and London. Squatting by open sewers, they show photographs of themselves with Nancy Reagan. Those were the glory days, when *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* wrote about them.

The creation of Shadipur as an artists' colony was largely the work of Rajeev Sethi, who heads an organisation called Sarhi, which helps artists in need. "These grassroots performers are the

people who keep the virtuosos where they are," he said. "Those at the top are held up by those at the bottom. Itinerant street performers are a vital component of India's artistic tradition."

The performers are invariably low-caste, making them dependent on high-caste tolerance and patronage. That goodwill has largely gone. Indeed, they are officially regarded as beggars. The government also took action against animal trainers last year, dealing another blow to Shadipur. Maneka Gandhi, then the environment minister, protested about cruelty to performing bears and monkeys and persuaded a court to order a bear to be placed in Delhi zoo, leaving its owner without a livelihood.

Baker walks into Israeli storm over loan delay

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker yesterday endured one of the toughest meetings of his seven-month Middle East diplomatic odyssey when he confronted a hostile Israeli leadership in an attempt to revive prospects for a regional peace conference.

The tone for Mr Baker's visit was set by a group of Israeli demonstrators who ambushed the visiting American envoy's motorcade as it entered Jerusalem, pelting one of the escort cars with tomatoes.

The confident smile which characterised his last visit here in August, when he won Israel's conditional acceptance to attend peace talks in October, was this time replaced by a tight-lipped grimace.

Mr Baker went straight into

talks with Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, David Levy, the foreign minister and Moshe Arens, the defence minister in an effort to resolve the dispute which began last week when President Bush took on Israel and the powerful American Jewish lobby. He demanded that a request for a \$10 billion (£5.8 billion) loan guarantee to help settle Jewish immigrants in Israel be postponed for four months, until after the start of the peace talks.

"I am not discouraged at all," Mr Baker told reporters before setting off for Israel from the Soviet Union. "We have always known that there would be bumps along the way. We said it from the day we started."

However, for many on the Israeli right Mr Bush's outburst confirmed their deep-seated suspicions that the president, a former oil man from Texas with close personal relations with many Arab leaders, is intent on forcing unacceptable concessions from the Jewish state at the peace talks, not least because of his personal antipathy towards the present government.

Its position was set out firmly by one of Mr Shamir's chief aides, Yossi Ben-Aharon, who said that the loan dispute had harmed America's role as peace broker and cast a shadow over the entire process. "Whoever thinks they can achieve something by pressure on Israel is simply mistaken," he said. "The result will be the contrary. I really hope that no one in the American administration is entertaining these thoughts."

The *Jerusalem Post*, which reflects right-wing ideology, yesterday compared President Bush to Neville Chamberlain and accused him of allowing his personal dislike of Mr Shamir to interfere with his foreign policy. "Bush has carried the personalisation of relations to unprecedented lengths," said the newspaper. "That the president of the world's greatest democracy can so wholeheartedly and devotedly support feudal regimes in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, a murderous dictatorship in Syria and totalitarian oppression in China can only be explained in terms of personal loyalty to the rulers of these countries."

However, while the tough White House position may have damaged its relations with Israel, it has predictably improved its standing in the Arab world, particularly with the Palestinians whose participation in the peace conference is still unresolved because of disagreements over who should represent them.

Allied force may leave Turkey

Silopi - Major-General James Jamerson, the American commander of a combined allied task force based in Turkey, has told Iraqi Kurds that Western troops protecting them may leave in two weeks, but allied air patrols over northern Iraq will continue.

Kurdish leaders said the general told them in Diyarbakir, in northern Iraq, that the troops would probably be withdrawn from their base near Silopi when the current agreement with Ankara expires at the end of September.

UN sources in Baghdad said that Kurdish rebels claimed to have captured more than 800 Iraqi troops in clashes outside the former allied security zone in northern Iraq. They said about 20 people had been killed while dozens had been wounded. (Reuters)

Iraqi offer

New York - Iraq has offered to let United Nations inspectors fly their own helicopters to search for hidden Iraqi weaponry, but only under stringent conditions. A Western diplomat welcomed the Iraqi move, but said there were too many strings attached, including a demand that Iraqis escort UN teams.

Gulf crash

Manama, Bahrain - A US navy helicopter crashed in the Gulf region, killing all six men on board. Military sources were unable to give further details. America has maintained a strong force in the region since the end of the Gulf war. (AP)

Suicide bomber seeks fresh start

FROM ADAM KELLNER IN BEIRUT

ON career failure ratings, few people can match Hammad al-Masri, a sensitive suicide bomber. The 30-year-old Lebanese Shia Muslim was among 51 Arab prisoners freed last Wednesday by Israel from Khiam jail inside the Israeli-occupied area of southern Lebanon under moves aimed at yielding further releases of detained Arabs. Westerners and Israelis.

Sitting relaxed in an armchair inside his simple family home in central Beirut, enjoying all the little aspects of freedom after six years behind bars, he hardly seemed the type who would blow himself and as many Israelis as possible to pieces by detonating a car primed with 250kg of high explosives. "I had crossed Shoumariya point and was supposed to detonate my car, when suddenly there were a lot of civilians around me, and I was reluctant," he said, recalling the afternoon of September 17, 1985, when he drove a BMW up to the Israeli position inside the so-called security zone.

"Then the Israeli secret police came and grabbed me, and that was it," he muttered dolefully, casting his gaze downwards.

The slightly-built man said he felt "very natural" when he drove up to the position, fired with anti-Israeli wrath as a cadre of the Nasserite Arab Socialist

Union. This group fervently adheres to the call by the late Egyptian president that all Arab lands must be returned, and thus the state of Israel should not exist.

Mr al-Masri declared he is still willing to give up his life towards this aim, saying that during his six years in jail, he had been very astounded that he had not executed the job. He had given no idea of his planned one-way mission to his parents. His grey-haired father interjected when his son spoke of fighting again and said gently: "I am so glad to see my son alive."

Six years ago, a full-fledged rebellion was under way in Lebanon's south, and the nation was otherwise wracked by civil war. Today's peace means that Mr al-Masri is unlikely to be going on a second mission. But time in Khiam jail has only fortified his ferocity towards Israel. Released prisoners have alleged severe brutality inside the penal facility, which is run by Israeli proxies and is forbidden territory to the Red Cross. Former inmates gave accounts of being kept for weeks on end in underground cells, of severe beatings and torture through electric shocks, and being suspended for long periods from poles.

Mr al-Masri now plans to take a rest and then look for work. Given his last job, he is not sure what to choose.



Slow motion: Sheikh Abbas Musawi, the secretary-general of Hezbollah, blaming Israel in Beirut yesterday for delaying a hostage deal by refusing to release Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, the Muslim Shia group's cleric

Syria visit underlines switch of allegiance

BACK copies of *Krasnyia Zvezda* (Red Star), the Soviet army daily, may still be on sale on Damascus news stands, but these days they nestle inconspicuously among editions of *Le Monde*, the *International Herald Tribune* and other Western papers formerly banned.

The change is symptomatic of the way in which Syria, a country still dominated by a wing of the Baath Arab Socialist party is struggling to throw off its previous reliance on Moscow and align itself more closely with the West.

The number of Soviet military advisers is claimed by intelligence sources to have fallen considerably in recent months, and further in the period since the failed coup in Moscow. Syria was notable in its refusal to support the hardliners in the short-lived way done by Iraq, Libya and some leading Palestinians.

Estimates are that there are less than 2,000 full-time Soviet advisers left in Syria and more of these are expected to leave soon. Already departed are the East German and Romanian secret policemen who did much to train Syria's omnipresent internal security network.

"President Assad's decision to join the anti-Iraq coalition did not come out of the blue; it was the culmination of a change that had been under-

The Baath regime is moving ever closer to the West, writes Christopher Walker from Damascus

way for three years," a Western envoy said. "He was the first Arab leader to see clearly the writing was on the wall for the East European and then the Soviet regimes. The precision he showed was in keeping with Assad's reputation for guarding Syria's long term interests. His opposition to Iraq was initially unpopular, but now even his enemies admit he was right."

Tomorrow's visit by James Baker, the United States Secretary of State, will underline the dramatic switch in alliances still taking place in the Middle East. It comes at a time when the popularity of the US administration in Syria is at an all-time high because of President Bush's tough stand against Israel over the \$10 billion (£5.8 billion) loan guarantees.

"The American taxpayers are now in confrontation with the Zionist lobby and they expressed their clear-cut rejection to the Israeli blackmail," trumpeted an editorial in the state-controlled *Syria Times*. To reinforce the trend, the

United States has appointed one of its most able Arabists, Christopher Ross, formerly ambassador in Algiers, to take over the increasingly influential US embassy in Damascus.

Western experts claim that President Assad first began turning slowly westwards when he realised that Moscow was never going to provide or finance strategic arms parity with Israel.

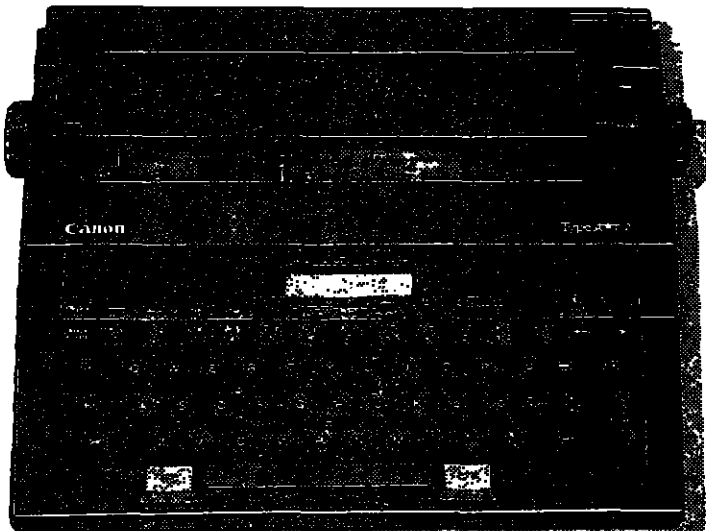
The influx of Western consumer goods is brightening formerly drab Syrian supermarkets. It has been matched, according to a number of Western embassies, with a significant increase in the use of the US dollar as a currency for transactions. "The political and economic implications of the spread of the dollar may prove as important as they once did in Eastern Europe," an economic specialist explained.

Although the state still imposes severe laws against foreign currency dealing, Syrians have become less secretive about using dollars or about keeping bank accounts abroad. The growing use of the dollar has been matched by often cumbersome attempts to increase the pace of privatisation in a centrally controlled economy where some 70 per cent of industrial enterprises are still state owned.

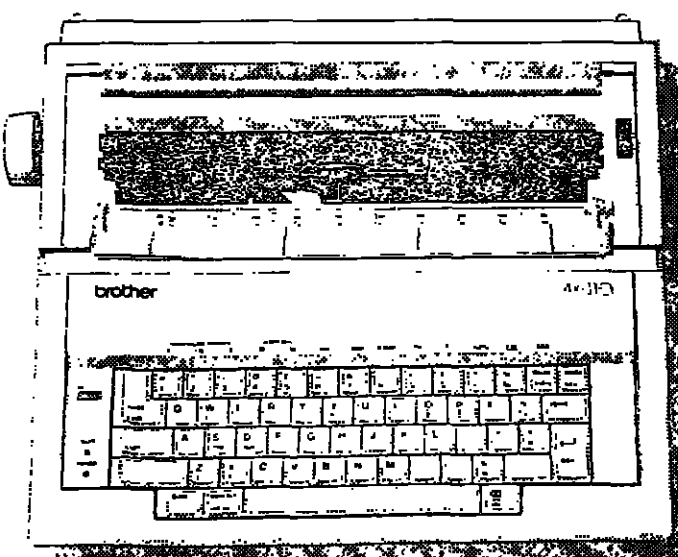
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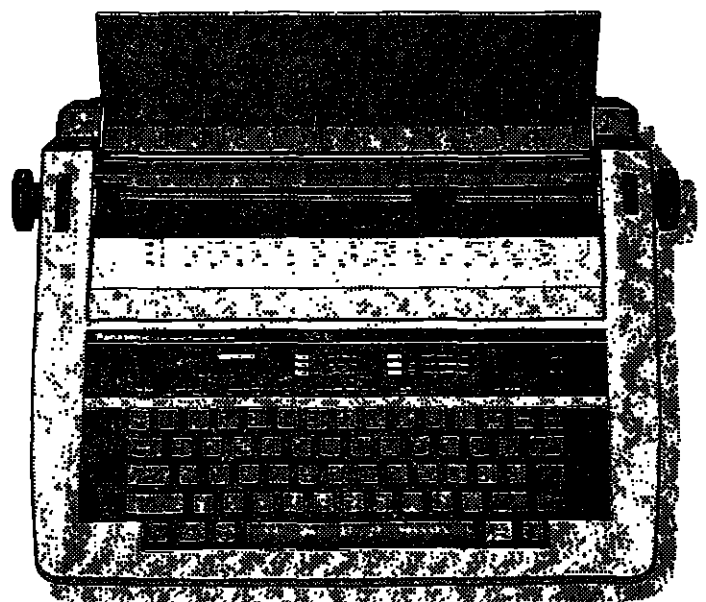
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Lauren: the lifestyle

Ralph Lauren is good at telling stories. While other designers work in the fashion business, Mr Lauren says his international fashion empire, with its turnover of \$2.4 billion (about £1.38 billion) a year, simply brings his stories to life. And the clothes he creates, for men and women, are only part of the tale. Apart from costuming his characters, he dresses their homes with his range of furnishings, to be launched in Britain next month.

When he commented on a photograph a few years ago of a model in his evening clothes, Mr Lauren summed up his creative process as well as his contemporary ideal. "This girl is very much my girl. She is wearing a man's tuxedo, an old western shirt that is faded, a string of pearls and a crocodile belt. She's as sexy as you can get and everyone in the room is looking at her."

The arrival of Mr Lauren's home furnishings range in London coincides with the 10th anniversary of the opening of his London shop at 143 New Bond Street and the nationwide launch of Safari, his newest fragrance. The shop in an oak-panelled 17th century house, once the home of Lord Nelson, has tartan blankets tossed over comfortable wing chairs, and a tray of drinks is lined up in front of a fire in winter.

The traditional paisley, tweed, tartan, and fresh ticking stripes that he uses for clothes designs are extravagantly reworked for home furnishings, with everything from bed linen, wallpaper, and cushions, down to the potpourri in the same theme. The

Ralph Lauren has created the ultimate accessory, home furnishings to complement his clothes. Liz Smith reports

style of his furnishings is dictated by Mr Lauren's life, split between a duplex on Fifth Avenue, his beach houses at Montauk, on the northern tip of Long Island, and in Jamaica, and a Colorado cattle ranch.

Rattan furniture is upholstered in blue and white checks and stripes (fabric £23 a yard; wallpaper, £25 for a five-metre roll; a rattan sofa



Lauren: designs to his script with canvas cushions costs £1,500), as on the verandah of a Lauren beach house, and his Sportsman group was inspired by sporting prints and Navaho blankets from the ranch.

Tartan, a favourite theme in both clothes and furnishings — his 17-year-old daughter Dylan's bedroom is lined wall-to-wall in tartan — is used for everything from bone china to bed linen (£75 for a king-sized sheet; £40 a pair of pillow cases) to napkin rings. A tartan-upholstered wing chair costs £1,900, and chests of

drawers, chairs, and mirrors are veneered in tartan, inspired by the designer's collection of 19th-century Scottish snuff boxes and pen trays.

A master of romantic imagery, Mr Lauren is inspired by the timeless elegance of Garbo and Hepburn (Katharine, not Audrey), as well as the Duke of Windsor and Cary Grant. His understated, thoroughbred chic reflects as much his own American heritage of rugged western denims and pioneer patchworks, as the

His daughter's bedroom is lined wall-to-wall in tartan

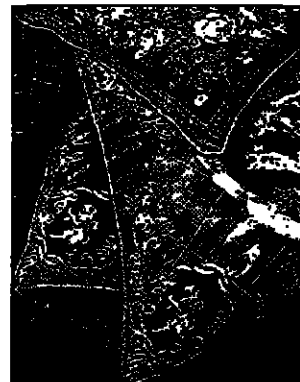
tweed and tartan of the English aristocracy. His is a world of well-cut tweed jackets, designed to last and to fade with style.

Such is the impact of Lauren aesthetics on American life that George Bush's success in the November 1988 presidential election, seen as a triumph of patrician elegance over the Reagan's brash Hollywood glamour, was reported by the *New Republic* paper as: "Get ready for the Ralph Lauren presidency."

Mr Lauren trades in tradition, not trendiness. However, for a designer who rejects the notion of fashion in favour of unchanging style, he is

responsible for many of the strongest fashion looks of the past two decades. He set the trend for mixing tweeds with old lace (he did the clothes for Diane Keaton in *Annie Hall*), and sold safari clothes "long before Out of Africa".

Mr Lauren, dressed in a sleeveless, hand-knitted sweater slipped over blue chambray shirt, rolled-up chinos with beige socks and deck



Home comfort: a fabric mix shoes — waves a hand to the view of Manhattan from the window of his Seventh Avenue showroom as he explains his philosophy. "The story starts with the girl out there," he says. "Who is she? How would she like to live?" The main Ralph Lauren Collection, and the lower priced Classifications range, contain slick wardrobe basics for city life in Manhattan, Paris or London (a tartan jacket in the Collection range is from £510, a Classifications tweed jacket from £385). His Roughwear

line (jeans £70, denim jacket just over £100) equips her for country weekends.

His New York store, opened in 1986 in the former Rhineland mansion on Madison Avenue, is the showcase for the Lauren lifestyle and has become a tourist attraction. The same year, he opened a store in a Second Empire building in Paris.

This season, Mr Lauren has rewritten his script and given his heroine clothes cut with more fit and glamour. His winter collection is as shapely as any cut in Paris. "Spiffy," is how he describes it.

Tartan is sliced into curvy suits and coat dresses with neat double rows of brass buttons. His military theme reappears for the ski slopes. And, as well as a line-up of perfect black evening dresses, there are wrap-over jackets in heavy satin with glamorous face-framing collars and poppins cinched with a deep belt.

This is "the rich, chic New York look," he says. It is a look personified by Kim Nye, 29, his house model. The statuesque, aristocratic-looking blonde is the woman on whom every design in his collection is first fitted. Ms Nye, from Pennsylvania, is not a traditional beauty. "She has the qualities of Garbo and will end up in the movie business," Mr Lauren says. But then, working with Ralph Lauren she is already on one rung of the Hollywood ladder.

The Ralph Lauren home furnishings collection will be available at Harvey Nichols, London, from October 14. The Ralph Lauren shop is at 143 New Bond Street, W1.

House model: Kim Nye in a tartan fitted jacket, fitted skirt and French beret from the winter collection



Will you be wearing your children's clothes in the year 2000?

Who knows what you'll be sporting at the turn of the century?

A space-age jump suit made from recycled newspapers, with matching green accessories, perhaps?

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The one famous for the attractive little Black Horse number.

Designs from previous years are being exhibited at the V&A from 7 August to 12 January.



Good with their hands

Twenty years ago, when the Craft Council was formed, crafts were still being referred to as a "suitable activity for the less able", says Tony Ford, its director.

"You wouldn't believe how lowly the standing of the crafts were in those days," Mr Ford says. "Working with one's hands still carried considerable social stigma."

Now, as the council prepares to open its doors on Thursday at its new, enlarged premises in north London, he envisages a future where flexible manufacturing technologies could promote a new era of collective individualism, where people could work part-time at home. "If one looks, not at all far ahead, one starts to envisage much smaller factories, almost one-man factories as craft and industry come together," he says.

"A fruitful marriage between technology and craft sensitivity and knowledge of materials which could herald a new era of design."

Like the institution, where he has worked since 1979, Mr Ford is a hybrid, part enthusiast, part businessman and part civil servant. Since he became the director, Mr Ford has proved both his commitment to the crafts and his management of its resources.

He has petitioned effectively against Richard Wilding's suggestion in his report (1989) to Richard Luce, the then arts minister, that the arts and the crafts councils should merge, successfully proving that the crafts council and its gallery was not, as Mr Wilding had implied, a waste of money.

Mr Wilding's misconception about the role of the council may have been partly due to its former arts bias. Mr Ford points out, that, "the crafts have had to reinvent themselves in the second half of this century". Machine produced goods have meant that "contemporary crafts are not necessary — they are an extra". He believes that "their main purpose now is aesthetic."

Initially, when the Crafts Advisory Committee was first set up by Lord Eccles, the Conservative arts minister, in 1971, the council's main aims were to improve the standards of craftsmanship and, above

The Crafts Council has a new home, and new impetus to broaden its appeal

all, to improve the cultural standing of the crafts.

Under the leadership of Victor Margrie (whose work now fetches high prices), the council adopted a strong bias towards the arts. Artist-craftspeople such as Lucie Rie, Hans Coper and Mary Resi-

Ford was running the grants and marketing department, the council set up grants to furniture designers such as Tom Dixon, Danny Lane, and André Dubreuil and the shoe designer Elizabeth Stuart-Smith, whose work has injected the crafts with a sense of urbanity, stylishness and contemporary relevance.

One definite change in the council's policy is its growing interest in flexible manufacturing systems and technological tools. In a new project with the trade and industry department, the council aims to start making this equipment available to craftspeople.

This growing concern with craft-based design coincides with the design council's decision to focus only on industrial design and engineering.

But, although furniture-making and carpentry have now become fashionable professions, public awareness of contemporary crafts remains fuzzy. The new crafts gallery therefore plans to increase its exhibitions programme, sponsor more touring exhibitions, open its study collection of contemporary craft work and provide access to a large slide library of contemporary craft work.

Peter Dormer, the pugnacious craft critic, is the curator of the council's inaugural exhibition, "Beyond the Dovetail". This focuses on what he sees as the core of crafts: a balance between good workmanship and imagination. "To be effective an institution needs to be able to reflect a set of values," he says.

Mr Ford disagrees. He insists that the range and diversity of crafts should persist, and that the council should provide an open door to designers and artist-craftspeople: "I refuse to say that craft is — or should be — one thing or another. We operate a broad church."

During the 1980s, while Mr

CHLOE COLCHESTER



Tony Ford: committed to craftsman

caux, John Makepeace, and Elizabeth Fritsch were promoted as stars and role models. The council severed its links with industrial design, jettisoned its conservation department and founded its magazine, *Crafts*.

During the 1980s, while Mr

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& BRIEFLY

Bubbly opening

TIMES readers are invited to a special customer evening to be held tomorrow at the new MaxMara shop at 153 New Bond Street, London W1. There will be a complimentary glass of champagne and an opportunity to preview the autumn/winter collections of many favourite labels at both the new shop or, if more convenient, the existing one at 32 Sloane Street, London SW1. Sportmax, Marella, Weekend, Pennyblack, I Binas, Prisma and Marina Rinaldi are among the 15 names in the MaxMara stable. Please carry this item with you for admittance.

Mud by mail

"MOULDING MUD" is the latest "style medium" as they call it in the trade, being marketed for hair. Grab a dab, rub it between your hands and run through the hair and its resinous threads are supposed to bond with and enhance waves and curls. It has been available for some time to hair stylists, and the public can now order a 4oz pot at £9.99 from Sebastian hair salons or by mail order. Call Freephone 0800 373931.

Heat control

ONE of the stars of the Self Build Homes Show, which begins at the Alexandra Palace in London tomorrow, will be Datasera, the intelligent central heating controller suitable for gas, oil and electric systems. Using the latest microprocessor technology, Datasera, from Warmworld of Bristol, promises fuel savings of up to 35 per cent — and reduced carbon dioxide emission from central heating boilers. It calculates the time needed to reach a required house temperature, and takes weather conditions into account to adjust central heating as

necessary. And it can protect empty houses from frost and condensation. (Warmworld notes that Department of Energy tests have shown it is less costly to maintain a low level of heating than to switch off completely and then reheat a cold house.) The system costs £277, plus Vat, and no plumbing is involved in installation. Further details from Warmworld, 11 Guinea Street, Redcliffe, Bristol BS1 6SX (telephone 0272 293314).

Baby boon

SCENTED "nappy sacks" for getting rid of smelly disposables were a boon — despite doubts about biodegradability. Now the Sengenic system, consisting of a light, portable plastic tub containing plastic film to seal dirty nappies, takes three days' supply. Simply insert nappies and it is tightly sealed, and they come out looking somewhat like a string of sausages. Sengenic claims its system helps the recycling of disposables, since bulk storage makes it easier to identify and segregate them from other waste. It also claims to be more economical than nappy bags. Refill film costs £2.50 and can wrap up to 180 nappies. Sengenic is available for £19.95, including one film cassette, from Boots, Mothercare, chemists, supermarkets and children's shops.

Art on a plate

WARHOL on a plate (£25), or mug (£8.95) or teapot (£45) is being served up at the Royal Academy as part of its two month-long Pop Art festival which runs until December 15. Warhol portraits of Marilyn Monroe and James Dean, on polyester chiffon shirts, have been walking out of the shop at £29.99, and pure silk pop art ties cost £14.95. Tins of Campbell's soup are not on sale — but reproductions of the famous work cost £16.95.

V. MCK

Alice Thomson reports from the Dunstable Tattoo, a celebration of the painted and pierced body



Walking, talking works of art: the 5,000 delegates to the annual Dunstable Tattoo Expo come to compare tattoos, admire new techniques and photograph each others' bodywork

Inky isn't kinky, it's art

Grandmothers shrink from them and parents despair of them. The Royal navy will not take women who have them and the police force will not employ men with visible ones. Employment agencies advise candidates to keep them covered during interviews.

Tattoos are just not socially acceptable. Even Hollywood stars and nicely brought up girls with ladybirds or other tasteful decorations on a discreet part of their body, even the fact that Eddie Grundy in

The Archers has just acquired one, has done little to assuage people's doubts.

The faded image of a red heart nestling on a leg, the skull and crossbones on a biker's arm or the words LOVE and HATE or simply LOVE between the knuckles, conjures up images of seaside tattoo parlours, unclean needles and criminal tendencies.

For the 5,000 people who converge on Dunstable in Bedfordshire each September for the annual Tattoo Expo, the taboo on tattoos can be problematic. Tattoos are not just a rebellious statement or a fashion accessory, they are an enjoyable obsession. People come from all round the country to the conference to compare tattoos, admire new techniques and exhibit their bodies, something they can rarely do elsewhere.

Tattoo aficionados cannot be sociologically defined. They are not the men who got one when they were drunk or the women who got them on a whim or the navvies who succumbed to peer pressure. They are people who desire a highly personalised and permanent body art. They include bankers, accountants, skinheads and secretaries, and there are as many women as men. They regret nothing, in fact they would often like to extend their collection. Being "inked" is an important part of the aficionado's life, but one that is rarely understood, let alone appreciated.

Lynn Procter, the deputy editor of *Body Art*, a magazine for tattoo fans, says: "If it is so unnatural how come every ancient society did something to change their body, from Eskimos to Egyptians? Anthropologists perceive it as

one of the oldest human desires. People do it to mark a passage in their lives, to prove their individuality, to show they are part of a group or because they find it sensual or creative. The desire for body art goes across all continents, ages and social barriers."

The conference hall is like a moving art gallery with people strolling among the live sculptures. A knee moves and Winston Churchill is suddenly exposed through a rip in the wearer's jeans, lizards peek out from holes in T-shirts and Hell's Angels will unzip their

when I left home, then added the others at different times in my life. My body is like a diary to me," he says. "It is wonderful to be able to come here and show it off without people looking horrified."

For the uninitiated the combination of leather, painted bodies and pierced skin can be daunting, yet the delegates form orderly queues for tickets and the men jump up to open doors for women. Each wears a bright red name tag to speed up introductions. They come armed with no more than cameras with

lenses at Dunstable Police Station has had no trouble from the conference and does not even provide extra police cover, in contrast to the first such event six years ago, when there was a heavy police presence. "When you begin to talk to these people you realise how decent they are. We have too many preconceived notions about tattoos. I would never judge someone by a tattoo now," he says.

Dunstable's residents have also got used to their "coloured visitors", as they like to call them, and children no longer recoil from the

pay to a masterpiece at an auction.

Kelly, 20, a groom from Wantage, has entered the women's individual tattoo contest. In a black Lycra dress and a velvet hairband she looks demure, but when she turns around her back is an explosion of colour. She sports an incredible interlaced of fish and seaweed curving down her spine, and the image of her favourite horse is tattooed on her thigh. "I wanted it as an expression of my independence and because I think it is beautiful," she says.

Anabel form Denmark won the coveted title of Best Female Tattoo last year and returned to judge this year's contest. She has detailed flower prints up her legs, a labrette (a stud) on her lip and talks with a lisp because she has just had her tongue pierced with a half-inch stud which is still quite sore. A civil servant in Copenhagen, she says the Danes are tolerant of her habit. "I look at my body as art, a living canvas. It takes time to think up the designs. I spend hours discussing them with my tattooist to make sure that they are a true expression of myself."

A small tattoo can cost as little as £20 but to have it removed will cost a lot more, and will always leave a scar. The operation, at a minimum of £250, is available on the NHS, but there is a five-year waiting list in most areas. Ms Procter's advice to anyone considering a piece of body art is that they must be sure that they will not change their minds. "A tattoo," she says, "is a more permanent fixture than a marriage."

'My body is like a diary to me. It is wonderful to be able to show it off without people looking horrified'

which to take photographs of each other's work. Everyone thinks they have the best tattoo but they always enquire after others', commenting on a detailed piece of Celtic interlock (a complicated pattern of Celtic symbols in black ink) or the fine linework of the Japanese Irezumi style.

The atmosphere is almost soporific. Conversation is muffled by the quiet hum of the tattooists' electric drills.

Couples picnic in the car park. Hell's Angels balance on bikes, eating sausage rolls. Beer is on sale all day but no one is drunk. They are on a different high because tattoos, it seems, are addictive. Superintendent Tom Ow-

myself but I can understand why these people regard them as art. Some of those pieces are beautiful," he says.

This year's two-day conference ended on Monday night with a competition that is seen as the highlight for many of the inked. Many contestants would not be seen dead in a communal changing room, but here they flaunt their bodies in style. Old men, body-builders and pot-bellied beer-drinkers march down the catwalk swivelling their bodies, their clothes hitched up or rolled back with safety pins to expose a carp on a hip or tribal symbols down a leg. The audience greets them with as much attention as collectors

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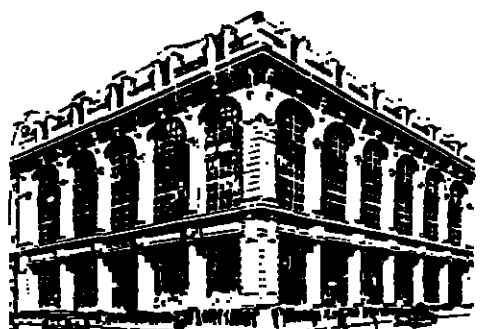
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Towards a comfortable old age

Why the financial and emotional prospects for single women need not be as bleak as a new study suggests



Linda Kelsey: has a support network for her old age

business equally with her husband but didn't invest equally in a pension plan. This is a recurrent problem — the nan's salary and all the "extras" tend to be paid for by the wife, so that if the man has any money left over he can invest in a pension, whereas her money usually less than his, is swallowed up.

In some cases the court will take into account the capitalised value of the pension and provide a lump sum settlement for the wife, Miss Bennett says. "But where that is the only major asset and the husband doesn't have any borrowing capacity the court is really in difficulty. We see that all the time."

Her own future is well provided for. "I have always worked, even while having two children, and when I was a

partner in a large firm I was fortunate in having arrangements made for me. But there's a big problem for non-career orientated women and a great need for insurance companies to target them."

Many women, it seems — even career women — imagine that marriage will protect them from a financially or emotionally impoverished old age. Morven Knowles, publicity director for the publishers Sidgwick & Jackson and the single parent of a baby son, says: "I've always been in a company pension scheme, although I haven't taken out any additional life insurance. I couldn't afford it when Thomas was born, and on the whole I'm not very good at planning for money matters. If I'm honest, even at 33 I still think I'm not going to be funding for myself all my life."

Gina Tarrant, a divorcee who started a successful champagne-importing business, Delahaye Champagnes, in Stourbridge, Worcestershire, when she was 34 and married, feels that is a short-sighted attitude. Now in her forties, she says: "A woman has to be aware of money matters. I made sure to take out my own



Margaret Bennett: most women do not plan ahead

pension as well as a life policy and private health care. I didn't think of it as a stride towards greater emancipation — simply common sense."

Linda Kelsey, the editor of *She* magazine, and the unmarried mother of a son, says: "I haven't thought that far ahead, although I've always worked and had a good company pension plan. I have been divorced, at 26, and now have a relationship that I hope will last. I also have friends and family to offer me support in old age — and I think women are better at making and maintaining networks than men. We will have so many old people that the issue will go beyond pension plans. I've been looking into some of the 'Eldercare and Childcare Centers' springing up in America, where

older people can help to look after younger ones. For me, the economics of ageing are less terrifying than being ignored by society."

Jacqui Jackson, Jill Bowler and Eileen Loughridge, the three solicitors from the Coventry firm of Brindley, Twist, Taft and Jones, responsible for popularising the concept of "living together" contracts, think this is probably true. "If you divorce early enough you can usually retrieve the situation — and women who live with men rather than marrying them tend to be better at providing for themselves," says Mrs Jackson, who, like her colleagues (one married and one single) has a good personal pension plan.

Mrs Jackson does not think that legislation should be introduced to force husbands to pay for pensions for their wives or partners. She believes the situation will improve only through education.

Miss Loughridge agrees: "I had to be bullied into taking up a personal plan — even though I see so many situations where the pension plan for a widow is not adequate. "It's a pretty horrible thing to say," Mrs Jackson says, "but it could well be that women getting divorced earlier, coupled with the large numbers of people living together, will lead to a generation of old people much more clued up about money matters."

VICTORIA MCKEE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Maestro behind the myths

Few musicians inspire such extreme reactions as Giuseppe Sinopoli, conducting in London tonight. Interview by Richard Morrison

This is the stuff of which small wars are made. An English orchestra, a German chorus and an Italian conductor are stuck half-way up a mountain in Sicily, rehearsing *Lo hengrin* in torrid heat in a 2,000-year-old ruined amphitheatre. Backstage, an *allegro furioso* of racial slurs is maintained between the rival factions. Out front, Wolfgang Wagner himself is directing the production. With the kind of symbolic flourish that his grandfather might have enjoyed, he begins each act by marching 30 spear-bearers between orchestra and chorus. Like some medieval United Nations peace-keeping force. Astonishingly, the production is all right on the night, music-making of the most monumental kind rings out over the slopes of Taormina towards the smoking summit of Etna.

In such turbulence, Giuseppe Sinopoli thrives. He conducts his far-flung forces with a galvanising energy. Between rehearsals he is courted by a whole platoon of Japanese concert agents. Getting Sinopoli to conduct a Mahler cycle in Japan is regarded by Japanese concert agents as akin to finding the Holy Grail. Even the abrasiveness between the Philharmonia Orchestra and the Bayreuth Festival Chorus seems not to worry Sinopoli. His years at the Deutsche Oper in Berlin have taught him about the value of "creative tensions".

The 45-year-old Sinopoli is quite capable of dividing the rest of his life into Grand Schemes, each to be ticked off before he moves on to the next. For this festival in Taormina, he envisages great celebrations of "opera with mythological aspects", linked with "international conferences connected with mythology". Myths are clearly a big thing with Sinopoli. "They are the only possibility of survival," he confides. "And opera is the last refuge of the myth."

But all that was last week. Tonight, a rather more controversial part of Sinopoli's life looms again. He and the Philharmonia return to the Festival Hall. They are back playing symphonic repertoire, rather than the operas with which he blazed a lightning reputation across Europe in the early 1980s. And they are back to face the carping of the British music critics.

He may be labelled a Germanophile (he became principal conductor of the Dresden Staatskapelle this season), idolised in Japan, respected in America. But in London, where he has been at the Philharmonia's helm for seven years, Sinopoli's symphonic work has continually puzzled or irritated the musical press, though his opera recordings are well received. One critic managed to write two consecutive reviews of Sinopoli's concerts without once mentioning Sinopoli: a remarkable, if perverse, feat of journalism.

This hostility inevitably sapped the confidence of the Philharmonia players. In the winter of 1989/90 the orchestra came within a whisker of ending its relationship with Sinopoli. Given his seemingly open-ended Deutsche Grammophon contract and vast popularity in countries rich enough to pay for touring British orchestras, that would have been financial suicide. The Philharmonia pulled back; the relationship has apparently healed, and today Sinopoli will be confirmed as music director until 1996.

But who is right about his conducting abilities? His first problem in London was inexperience. "The anomaly of my conducting career," he admits, "is that I never did the normal things: carry the bag for three or four years, learn to say 'that was fantastic, maestro'."

That is an understatement. Sinopoli trained in medicine, wrote a thesis on anthropological and psychiatric matters, taught avant-garde music, composed an opera, suddenly started conducting early Verdi in high-profile theatres, and was soon afterwards "taken up" by Deutsche Grammophon. It must be one of the most bizarre career progressions in music history.

Having conducted barely a handful of symphonic concerts and almost nothing with the Philharmonia, he was then appointed successor to Riccardo Muti. He exuded rawness and eccentricity, and the press commentators began. But more deep-rooted British attitudes also acted against him. He has always worn flamboyant Italian intellectualism like a badge. Nothing pleases him better than to deliver a little off-the-cuff analysis of, for instance, the psycho-musical processes in Schumann's symphonies. Such theorising may go down well with postgraduate classes in Venice, but it makes British symphonists shift uncomfortably. In this land the emphasis is on instinct, quick reflexes and practicality.

Sinopoli is far from apologetic for turning some Philharmonia rehearsals into quasi-seminars. "Two or three times I used rehearsals to analyse with the players Bruckner Five and Beethoven Nine. I would say 'you can never play this piece if you don't hear how it is composed.'"

That Sinopoli expected London's hardbitten orchestral fraternity to become excited by forced-musical analysis perhaps reveals a streak of naivety. Yet he can be a remarkably perceptive commentator on British musical life. "Yesterday my son heard the word 'artisan'. He asked me 'what is the difference between artisan and artist?' I said, 'Okay, an artisan is someone who creates something very good that is useful. An artist creates something very good that is not necessarily useful'. Now, in English cultural history, utilitarianism has always been rated very highly. So the artisan is very important; the artist less so."



Sinopoli: "The political system pushes musicians into being artisans, who must produce something useful"

not consider that possibility." Sinopoli also passionately defends British orchestras against the charge that they are not world-class. "You know, if we had the Philharmonia Orchestra in Rome, we would make it the most famous orchestra in the world. This is all a question of image." Sinopoli believes that the image of British orchestras which is put about by their continental rivals, and often abetted by critical writing in Britain, is of "prostitute orchestras, working incredibly quickly, doing anything, going anywhere."

By encouraging that image, he maintains, German orchestras "try to limit what work British orchestras can do" in the increasingly cut-throat European market. It is a credible hypothesis.

Sinopoli sees little merit in the British genius for losing gracefully. "In Berlin now, they say: 'We must build up three great opera houses, then we will be the musical capital of the world.' In London, you say 'we must get rid of some orchestras, then we will be the musical capital of the world! Which plan is better?'"

For all his rhetoric, Sinopoli remains extraordinarily detached about his music-making: he somehow conveys the impression that it is just one of several intellectual pursuits being juggled in his prodigious brain. Indeed, he even hints — and here is pulse-quickening news for his critics — at an early retirement from conducting, perhaps to pursue archaeology. "It is not ordained that I must do music all my life. For the next ten years, yes. I won't say more now."

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'He may be lionised in Germany, idolised in Japan, but in London, his work has continually puzzled'

Express package

RARE opportunities to assess the composer Schoenberg as a painter and the painter Kandinsky as a playwright are among the highlights of the new Manchester International Festival of Expressionism. The three week festival, opening in February, is the first to be devoted to the turn-of-the-century Expressionist movement, and brings together Manchester's arts organisations in a programme ranging from a "fireworks and laser" performance of Kurt Weill to Fritz Lang films with live accompaniment.

Branded thief?

ONE question must have occurred to many visiting the Royal Academy's Pop Art exhibition: how do Pop artists get away with using closely guarded brand images? The answer, in these days when art itself often means big money, is that they do not. The American neo-Pop artist Jeff Coons, whose early works consisted of brand imaged goods that were unmodified except for their presentation on specially made shelves or in plastic boxes, confides that he is at present the target of nine major breach-of-copy-right cases in New York. He will fight them through to the end, he claims, on a point of principle: to ensure that Hoovers and Mickey Mouse can freely take their proper place as part of the world's everyday visual vocabulary. Meanwhile, he has changed his own artistic vocabulary, favouring nude self-portraits and (unattributable) kitsch religious images.

Sinfonia's lucky lot

WHATEVER the outcome of the debate over a national arts lottery, one orchestra has already benefited from the gambling instinct. Richard Hickox's City of London Sinfonia has netted £20,000 from participating, along with 120 other charities, in the organisation of the "Scratch! Match! Win!!!" multiple lottery game. Since the lottery began last February, £4 million has been raised.

Nordic invasion

A SCANDINAVIAN Film Society has been established to bring to London films from the Nordic countries which would not otherwise reach this country. The patron is the actor Max von Sydow, whose first film as director, *Katinka*, is the inaugural screening tonight. The society plans ten shows between now and May 1992. Details from The Scandinavian Film Society, 111 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 3289).

On her feet

THE ballerina Bryony Brind seems to have received more work from Covent Garden by not having a job there than she was given when she did. Last season she was listed as a Royal Ballet principal but hardly allowed to set foot on stage. For the new season, starting next month, her name has disappeared from the company list, but she is announced to appear as a guest in *Monettes* next spring. No wonder people sometimes question the casting policy at the Royal Opera House.



Brind: returns as guest

Last chance . . .

JAMES Stock's quirky black comedy at the Bush, *Blue Night in the Heart of the West*, should make Scottish tourists think twice about crossing the Atlantic. If they are as trusting as the wee hero of this play, they will end up pole-axed by revelations of multiple incest, blood letting and strange thanksgiving practices on the planes of Iowa. Splendidly acted on a set that conjures up the desolate landscape, the play is weird, witty and feverish. Closes Saturday (081-743 3388) before a nationwide tour.

JAPAN FESTIVAL: GLASGOW

Crafted in ancestral colours and contours

From dyed cotton to fine porcelain, Glasgow's shows of Japanese handicrafts are a revelation, says Andrew Gibbon Williams

On a polished shelf in what Pevsner described as one of the few decent modern houses in Oxfordshire, sits a solitary bowl. There is nothing flashy about it. From the rim a treacherous amber glaze dribbles unevenly into its shallow crater. The bowl simply asks to be enjoyed; more important, it begs to be used. Admittedly, the way this artefact is displayed is an extreme example of the Western assimilation of Japanese taste: outside the garden that might have been miraculously transported from Kyoto eschews the Cotswold landscape, and kimono inhabit the guest closets. Few of us, however, can have escaped this sober, calming, Oriental aesthetic, even when displayed less strenuously.

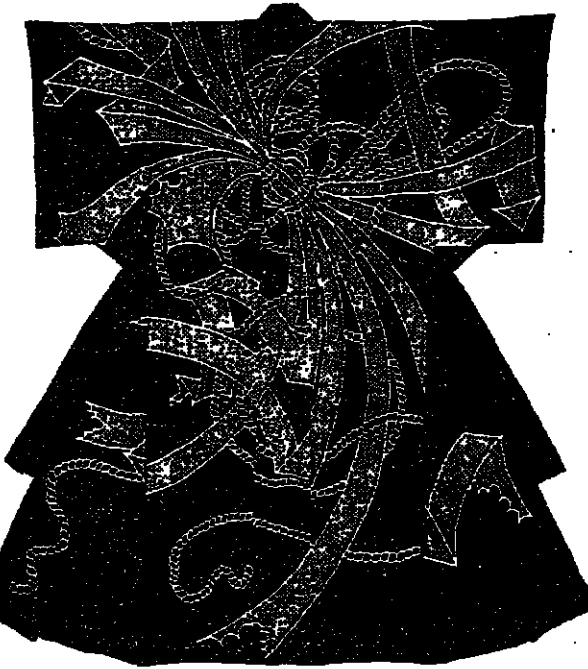
For this reason, one's first sensation on entering Mingey's *The Living Tradition in Japanese Arts* — an installation of Japanese folk crafts in Glasgow's Burrell collection — is one of familiarity. Didn't I eat off a plate like that at so-and-so's last week? For this sensation, in Britain at least, we must thank the revered potter Bernard Leach — and it is Leach who provides the link between the Japanese folk craft tradition, which was labelled Mingey by its founder Soetsu Yanagi, and modern occidental taste.

Considering the aggressive industrialisation and westernisation of Japan following Commodore Perry's infamous incursion of 1853, one may be

amazed that any of the remaining indigenous craft traditions — glazed stoneware, abstract pattern-dyed cloth and sophisticated lacquer work — did not go the way of a thousand European handicrafts, from basket weaving to lacemaking. Japan was soon flooded by cheap cotton, with Japanese factories geared up to produce second-rate, imitator-style tea sets for the European and American markets. Yanagi observed the rot setting in — and set about stopping it.

At this point in the tale the British are entitled to feel a little pride, which might compensate for any guilt over conspiring in the immoral commercial exploitation of Japan's previously forbidden civilisation. For Yanagi had been schooled (like many of his generation) in the arts and crafts philosophy of William Morris and Ruskin. Realising that the indigenous peasantware of his own country married the practical and the beautiful, he began collecting it with a vengeance. He was really like a craft equivalent of the folk-song collector, Cecil Sharp. By 1936 he had acquired finance to inaugurate the Japan Folk Crafts Museum in Komaba near Tokyo.

The most arresting Mingey artefacts are the simplest. The 19th century fireman's coat, dyed a deep indigo, is emblazoned with a trio of vertical waves on the back. A spouted bottle drenched in green iron glaze exudes as much presence as an archaic Greek amphora. A cylindrical, jet black lacquered water pitcher rimmed



Dazzling display: a 19th century indigo-dyed comforter

top and base in glowing vermillion has, amazingly, been in existence for hundreds of years. Had its maker attended the same college as the artist who decorated the dazzling, half-black, half-green dish made a few years ago at Ushino, one would not have been surprised.

This timelessness is a key to the appreciation of Mingey. It is a result of following Yanagi's teaching, that objects should be created anonymously and not regarded as vehicles through which the artist can express his own ego; that manufacture should be spontaneous and decoration minimal; in short that fine art is spawned by fine craft. "There is no essential

difference between the artist and craftsman," maintained the Bauhaus. Yanagi agreed. In a society where design is increasingly divorced from utility, where capricious Post-Modern ornamentation has become the norm, Mingey could not have arrived here at a more opportune moment.

Quite a lot of Japanese craft-material arrived in Glasgow at what was possibly an equally opportune moment, 113 years ago. The occasion was the Glasgow-Japan exchange of 1878, commemorated in another Japan Festival exhibition, *Art for Industry*, this time at the Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove. One of the earliest examples of Japanese coming West to learn technological

secrets was the visit of a group of students in 1866 to study shipbuilding on the Clyde. In 1878, Robert Smith, who became first professor of engineering in Tokyo University, thought that the traffic should be two-way, and immediately negotiated an exchange of 31 cases of Japanese art and craft-ware for Glasgow against a return gift of industrial samples from 20 Scottish firms.

Upwards of 200 objects are included in the present show, often in slightly westernised styles, though almost invariably handmade. The industrialisation of manufacturing ceramics and textiles in Japan was partially a result of the Scottish gift. It is not so easy to pinpoint any tangible results of the Japanese gift to Glasgow, however.

The real influences were elsewhere: in the way individual artists responded to Japanese art and then, as with the Glaswegian painters Hornel and Henry, to the experience of Japan itself. In 1878, as now, it is one thing to preach, another to find the right audience for conversion.

Mingey: *The Living Tradition in Japanese Arts* is an exhibition from the Japan Folk Crafts Museum at the Burrell Collection, 2000 Pollockshaw Road, Glasgow (041-649 7151). Daily 10am-5pm, until October 6. Art for Industry is at the Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove (041-337 3929). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm (Thur to 9pm), Sun 12-6pm, until January 5.

ARTS REVIEWS
Theatre and Concerts
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Conor Cruise O'Brien

America is not abandoning Israel, its best ally in the Middle East, but the Republicans would like a concession

Palestinians were last week hailing what they described as "the second declaration of independence", by which they mean a declaration by America of independence from Israel. This is how the Palestinians interpret President Bush's announcement that he will veto a Congressional loan guarantee appropriation to finance the housing of immigrants from the Soviet Union if it is attempted before the Middle East peace conference scheduled for next month.

The Palestinian rejoicing is understandable. Bush's stand is the toughest taken against Israel by any American president since 1956, when in the wake of the Anglo-French-Israeli attack on Egypt, David Ben Gurion refused Eisenhower's request to withdraw Israeli forces from Sinai. Eisenhower thereupon not only threatened to cut off all funds from Israel, but also allowed it to be hinted that America would remain neutral in the event of a Soviet attack on Israel. George Bush's present stance is less dramatic than Eisenhower's was then, but it is tougher than anything seen since.

Yet the Palestinian glee may turn out to be premature. What is involved, at least at the moment, is no more than a deferment of loan guarantees, not their cancellation. Furthermore, Mr Bush appears to be motivated not so much by a desire to court the Palestinians as by deference to the sensitivities of those Arab states which were America's allies during the Gulf war. It seems that they have asked America to defer the loan guarantees until the Middle East peace conference is over. This seems to me a matter of decorum and face-saving, rather than a case of real intransigence about American policy in general. The Arab allies seem not to be urging complete cancellation of the loan guarantees.

The Palestinians are now more isolated than before the Gulf war. Neither the United States nor its Arab allies have forgotten the PLO's support for Saddam Hussein and the visible enthusiasm of many ordinary Palestinians in the same cause. The American public remembers the Palestinian crowds cheering the Scud missiles on their way to Haifa and Tel Aviv. They also remember that at the urging of the United States, Israel refrained from any retaliation against Iraq's aggression.

Nor have they forgotten that while the attempted coup in Moscow seemed to be succeeding, PLO spokesman in Tunis could not restrain their jubilation. The Palestinians look like being out in the cold for quite a long time. As far as the Western allies are concerned, the PLO is discredited, and it is not loved by the West's Arab allies either. The allies know, after all, that they appear as traitors in the eyes of many, perhaps most, Palestinians. All of their leaders are in danger of assassination, and all of them know that it is from the ranks of

the Palestinians that their assassins are most likely to come. So there is not likely to be great pressure from that quarter for the seating of a Palestinian delegation. Nor would it be easy to construct a plausible delegation. Israel rules out the PLO and people with PLO associations, yet no delegation without links to the PLO will look credible in the eyes of ordinary Palestinians.

Understandably, Mr Bush's tough stance is greatly troubling the Israelis and many American Jews. Mr Bush is obviously sufficiently sure of re-election to feel able to stand up to the Jewish lobby (or, more appropriately, the pro-Zionist lobby, since it includes large numbers of American evangelicals and some other non-Jews). However, the present strain on the American-Israeli alliance is probably temporary, and not — as some Israelis fear — a symptom of impending disintegration. I believe the alliance is pretty solidly based. The Bush administration is well aware that any of its other allies in the region can be overthrown at any time by a putsch. There is only one country in the region that is allied with America: all the other allies are regimes.

So it is unlikely that America will dispense with that one country. The Middle East peace conference, if and when it comes, is not likely to be as consequential as these preliminaries suggest. Its only forerunner, the Geneva conference in 1975 and again in 1977, Anwar Sadat seemed the idea because it seemed to give his rival, President Assad of Syria, a favourable chance to manipulate the PLO. So Sadat brilliantly and courageously torpedoed the conference by his flight to Jerusalem, so opening the way to a separate peace between Egypt and Syria.

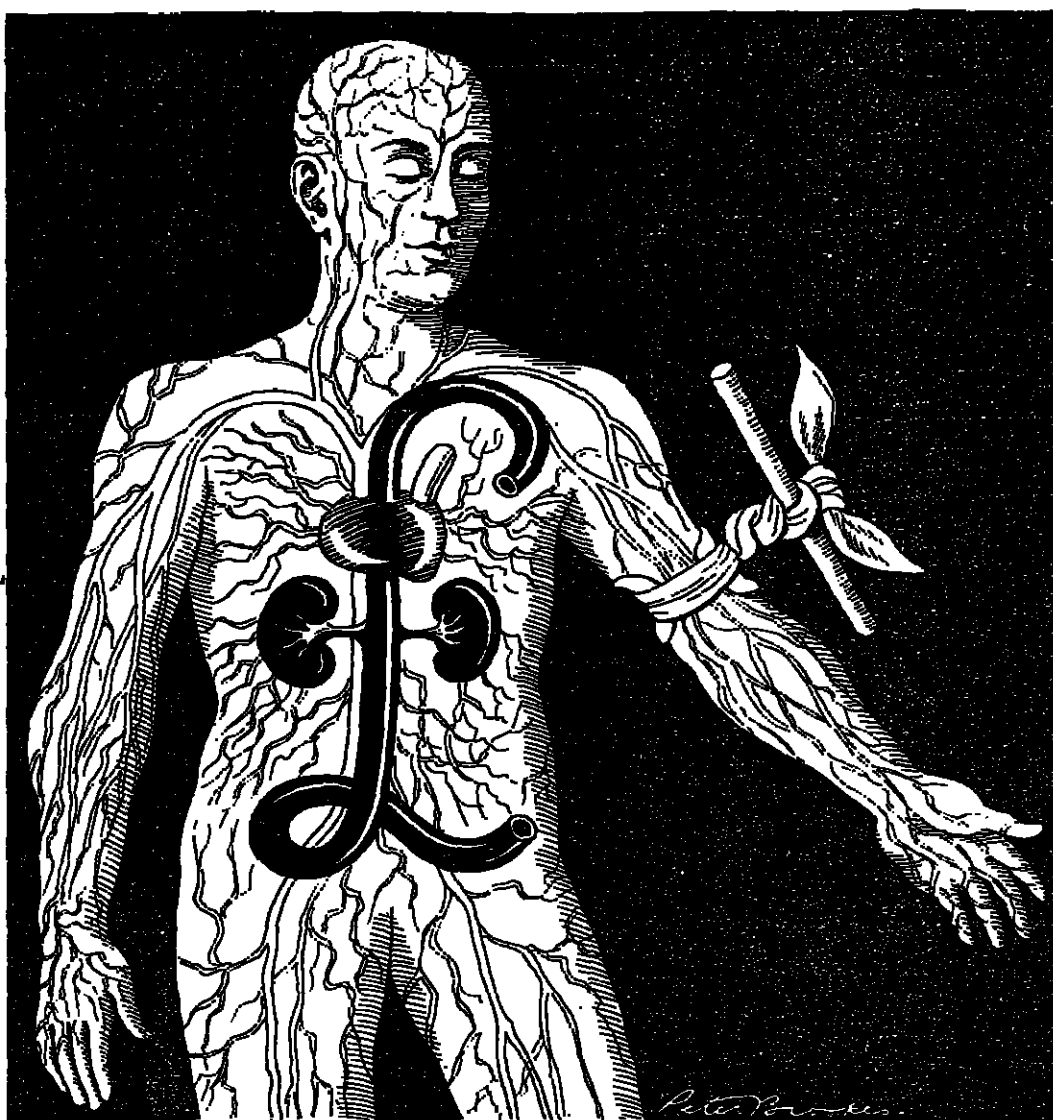
Similarly, the conference scheduled for next month may prove to be a preliminary to bilateral negotiation between Israel and Syria. Just as President Sadat wanted to win back Sinai, so President Assad wants to win back the Golan Heights. Mr Shamir is obviously reluctant to let Mr Assad have the Heights back. It is just possible that President Bush's tough stance is the run-up to the conference is his way of inducing Mr Shamir to be a little less refractory on the crucial Syrian issue. Only over Syria has the American Secretary of State, James Baker, any chance of achieving a major breakthrough before the 1996 presidential election, in which he will probably be a contender. Only Syria and Israel, together, can provide him with the solid and recent diplomatic success that he will need.



James Baker: looking for a Kissinger-style success

London's palaces of disease

James LeFanu says that the capital no longer needs twelve teaching hospitals, and that the NHS cannot afford them



John Major inherited from his predecessor two revolutionary social upheavals, the poll tax and the NHS reforms. We all know what happened to the first: revisionism followed by final rejection. On Monday, we saw the beginning of the same process applied to the NHS reforms. Mr Waldegrave is setting up an independent enquiry under a guru who has yet to be named, to produce a blueprint for the future of London's teaching hospitals. The Thatcherite solution, with an internal market in health producing the long-sought-after rationalisation of health care, is now believed to be a recipe for chaos. Mr Waldegrave is looking for "managed change".

His problem can be best appreciated by taking an imaginary night-time helicopter ride over the centre of London. Like a glittering brooch, the city is studded with 12 vast palaces of disease, each a self-contained teaching hospital providing a full range of services. But in contrast to the shining neon lights within, the streets around many of them are dark and deserted. They serve no indigenous population.

Going through the front door, one would be impressed by the number of white-coated professionals thronging the corridors, although chancing upon a senior consultant, one might well hear him confess to being rather under-employed, with only a few of his own beds and a couple of operating sessions a week.

What explains this curious phenomenon? The teaching hospitals were founded when the population of London was expanding vigorously, and they acted as referral centres, sorting out difficult medical problems from all over England. Since then, the number of residents in inner London has fallen dramatically: down by a half in the last 60 years, to less than two-and-a-half million. Nowadays, too, the high standard of medicine in London is equally available in the provinces. However, although demand for their services has fallen, the hospitals have stayed put. Smaller, cheaper hospitals have been closed in line with demographic changes, but the large, expensive teaching hospitals are unscathed.

Central London has twice as many acute-patient hospital beds per thousand of population as the rest of the country. They are serviced by twice as many consultants and junior hospital staff as are to be found elsewhere. The average cost per patient is £1,200, compared with £750 in a hospital outside London.

Now is this relative abundance of medical services reflected in shorter waiting-lists. This is partly because there are too few cheap hospital facilities for the elderly, so the average age of those admitted is high and they stay in hospital longer, occupying beds that would be better used for those requiring hip replacements and cancer operations. The estimated cost to the NHS of this mismatch of patients and resources is £500 million a year.

The motives of the top consultants in perpetuating this state of affairs are obvious. Most of the teaching hospitals are near Harley Street, allowing them to combine with ease their NHS commitments and lucrative private practice. Furthermore, until April this year, the district health authorities were powerfully influenced by their consultant members to make decisions — such as

major capital programmes of rebuilding — that would make it extremely difficult to close any individual teaching hospital.

So, in just one London region — South-East Thames — there are three teaching hospitals, St Thomas's, Guy's and King's, between them serving a local population of less than a million. Two of them have had major rebuilding programmes recently, at a cost of £200 million each, and King's has a brand new school of dentistry. Each provides a full range of high-tech services, though each has its own particular speciality (liver transplants at King's; kidney disease at Guy's; and eyes, skin, and cancer at St Thomas's).

If that were not enough, the several proposals for reform floated in the last two decades have been thwarted by the highly influential Committee of Deans of the medical schools, along with individual consultants with their contacts at the Carlton Club and elsewhere.

The main, and perhaps only, benefit of the NHS reforms introduced in April is that they drastically reduce the dominating influence of the top consultants. From now on, the functions of planning and pro-

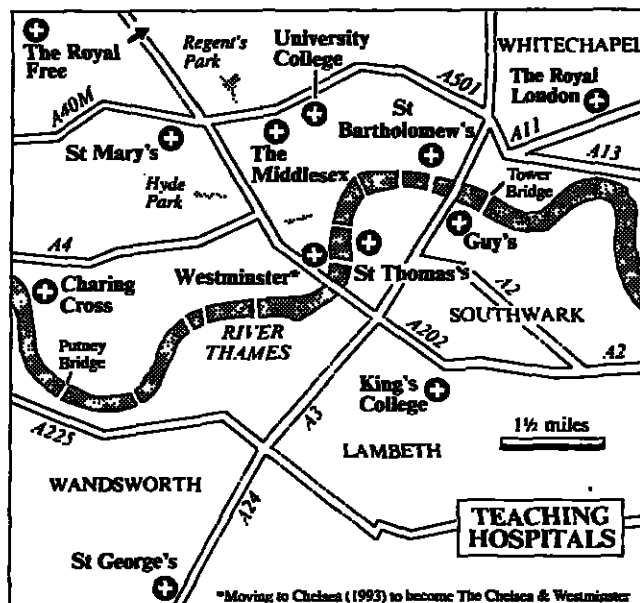
viding health care are divided. The health authorities have become management-dominated, "purchasing" health care from the providers, the hospitals and community services. The consultants' survival now depends on the efficiency and quality of the care they provide.

Beyond that looms chaos. The purpose of the reforms is to improve financial efficiency, so the services provided by the teaching hospitals must now reflect their true costs. From April, they have had to pay a capital charge calculated on the rateable value of the property they occupy. In Central London, this immediately

increased the "cost per patient-episode" by £330, compared with £200 in the other Thames regions, so making them even less economic than before.

Furthermore, as purchasers of health care, the district health authorities have looked at the patterns of patient movement between areas. Invariably they find that patients are being transferred from low-cost areas such as the suburbs and shires to the high-cost areas of Central London. The authorities would save a lot of money if they reversed this trend, so that, for example, patients had their varicose veins repaired at Epsom District Hospital rather than St Thomas's.

But if the teaching hospitals lose this high-volume low-technology work, their marginal costs will rise and they will become still less economic. Bankruptcy beckons not just one but several hospitals. There is worse. Mr Waldegrave has inherited from the pre-reform days commitments to further capital spending which will add to the number of expensive medical facilities in London. There is "agreement in principle" to rebuild University



Too many hospitals with too few patients: non-acute cases are brought in from other areas simply to keep beds full

College Hospital and the Middlesex at huge cost. St Mary's has a similar agreement for phase two of its rebuilding, and the Westminster has been absorbed into St Stephen's, which is currently being rebuilt, although there is not enough money to open it.

The prospect of "for sale" notices going up outside several London teaching hospitals, with the Ministry of Health having to announce the closures, makes politicians distinctly uneasy. Instead, having assessed their individual strengths and weaknesses, the priority must be to decide which should merge, which need to change their function, and perhaps which should close.

So when Mr Waldegrave packed his bags for his summer holidays, he included a large pink document published by London University in 1980 — the Flowers Report, in which Lord Flowers made a number of recommendations for the London teaching hospitals. Taking as its theme a maxim from a letter from Francis Bacon to Lord Henry Howard — "No remedies cause so much pain as those which are efficacious" — his committee confronted head-on the problem of the over-provision of teaching hospitals in London. The report recommended that only one — Westminster — be closed, but proposed a root-and-branch reorganisation of the others and of the postgraduate hospitals in the six major conglomerates. Guy's, St Thomas's and King's, along with the Institute of Psychiatry, would constitute a single entity in the South-West; St Bartholomew's, the London and the Institute of Ophthalmology would serve the East; UCH, Middlesex and the Royal Free would merge, as would St Mary's and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith; Charing Cross Hospital would absorb the Cardiothoracic Institute, and St George's would absorb the Royal London School of Dentistry.

The Flowers Report was essentially concerned with medical education, but it provides an excellent template against which Mr Waldegrave can draw up his plans. These may need to be even more radical to take into account the recent acknowledgement of the over-supply of acute medical services in the capital. Mr Waldegrave may well be tempted not to proceed with the rebuilding of UCH and the Middlesex, and indeed might choose to close them down and use the funds released to build a couple of the hospitals for non-acute patients — hospitals that London badly needs. A similar fate might befall St Thomas's and the hospital nearing completion on the old St Stephen's site in Fulham. Mr Waldegrave would also have to ask whether St Bartholomew's can remain in its present form.

A softer option would be to accept that the qualities and skills of our London teaching hospitals are unique, and to guarantee their future on condition that they rationalise the services they provide. This would involve a financial fudge, awarding them special allowances to stay open. Either option will require intelligent capital-wide planning, rather than leaving the future to the potentially anarchic effects of the internal market. Perhaps Mr Waldegrave will not find such a reversal of policy too hard to accept. He is after all a pragmatic politician.

The author is a London GP.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Once upon a time, if you were seated next to a crackpot on the afterdeck of the SS *Mauretania* when the Bovril and Bath Oliviers came round, and the crackpot enquired whether he could dip his Bath Oliver in your Bovril, you could get up, gather your steamer-rug about you, nod to the crackpot, and move your chair. Even better, you could nod to a steward, who would then do all the gathering and moving for you, and furthermore offer the crackpot some mollifying formula (eg "Mr Coren is composing a verse drama in his head, sir") to ensure that the crackpot would not subsequently come after you with a cleaver.

Air travel has changed all that. You are checked into a numbered seat, and you cannot escape from whoever is checked into the number beside you. You cannot even get up and stand in the aisle, because the aisle is full either of scurrying incontinentals or trolleys selling such essentials as men's toiletries and titchy ceramic Concorde with thermometers on. Worse yet, you are not so much sitting beside your neighbours as affixed to them, and, like Siamese triplets, not merely joined at knee, elbow and shoulder but also forced willy-nilly into temporary symbiosis: you have to unfold your newspapers at the same time so as not to dislodge one another's spectacles, you have to draw up a rota for stubbing out cigarettes in the communal slot, you have to

lean back and forth in due sequence when receiving trays or men's toiletries, and if leaning sideways for catnaps or a view of Mount Blanc, direction and degrees of camber have to be worked out beforehand, if you are not all to end up with cauliflower ears. You will, I'm sure, have noticed that until mass air-travel came along to inspire it, nobody thought of synchronised swimming.

On Monday, I didn't know I had a crackpot on my hands until the meal arrived. That he was reading *The Sunday Times* comic did not particularly alert me, since the plane had left late and he might well have gutted the rest of the paper in the departure lounge; nor was he muttering to himself or trying to pull his lower lip up to touch his nose, as other co-travellers of mine had sometimes done. But as soon as the supper trays came round, I knew that something fishy was afoot.

Now, Air France food ranks, unfathomably, with the most depressing available anywhere. Monday's was a small medallion of cold beige meat which looked like a cross-section of forearm, surrounded by astonishingly miniature vegetables: there was an olive you dared not eat lest it was only a pip whose flesh had already been nibbled off, a foetal tomato, two things which were either silverskin onions or contact lenses, and a shrivelled gherkin so tiny it might have fallen out of someone's nose. Had the entire garnish been

placed on the sideboard of a Victorian doll's house, I should have marvelled at yesterday's lost craftsmanship, but as it was, I left it where it lay, and drank my wine.

"Are you going to eat those onions?" said the man beside me. "If not, could I put them in my gin-and-French?"

"By all means," I said.

"It's called a Gibson," he said stirring it. "Do you know who Gibson was?" I shook my head. "Nor do I. Like my tomato in exchange?"

"No, thank you."

"I never eat tomatoes," he said, "in case the pips get lodged on my appendix and grow. It happens a lot. I'm told."

Who told him? Had he sat next to people even odder than himself? Unlikely, as I was to discover in the next interminable hour, he could not wear a watch because his heart was on the wrong side and it went haywire (heart or watch, he did not specify), he refused to watch TV for fear of being manipulated by subliminal bombardment, he was convinced that insects would one day take over the world, he had wondered for years why man had suddenly decided to shave... and when, at as long a last as I have ever experienced, we got up to disembark, he gave me his card. He was an airline pilot.

Do you know that sensation of both armpits spontaneously contracting? I've no idea what it's called, but I'll bet it never happened on the *Mauretania*.

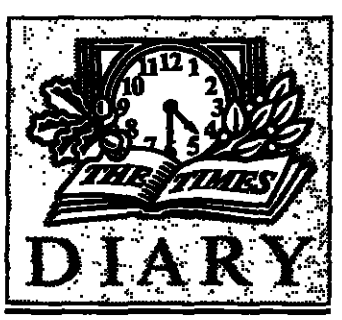
To Russia with love

THE Booker Prize is being exported to the Soviet Union. For the first time, novelists writing in Russian will have a chance to win £20,000 in hard currency on their literary merits alone. Previous Soviet literary prizes have been awarded largely on the strength of devotion to the party line.

There will be a strong temptation to give the prize to a well known dissident, but Booker prize is determined the prize shall be awarded on literary merit alone. Rita Pittman, a research fellow in modern Soviet literature at St Antony's College, Oxford, tips Ludmila Petrushevskaya, an acclaimed young writer, Anatoli Kir, Valeria Narbikova, known for her avant-garde work and, something of an outside choice, and Sril Iskander, whom she describes as a "very funny writer, wonderfully satirical".

A.S. Byatt, the current Booker Prize winner, also lists her contenders. "Andre Bivov, author of the *Puskin House* and Chingiz Aitmatov, who wrote *The Day that Lasted 100 Years*, are both possible candidates. They are tremendous," she says.

"I believe there is about to be a huge renaissance in European literature and this can only help British authors. What more elegant way can there be to introduce competition to the Soviet Union? Jonathan Taylor, the chief executive of Booker, which is establishing the prize in Moscow with the help of the British Council, says: 'I think it will be the first Western prize in the Soviet Union. Historically, Russian is a great language for fiction. The tradition has somewhat run out of steam and we hope the prize will help revive it'.



The first prize will be awarded next year and will be judged by a mixed jury of Russians and western Europeans. The only problem is that after the events of last month, one suspects that for the moment at least, the truth is far stranger than Russian fiction.

● Clients of Avis, the car hire company, had a shock this week with the dispatch of some unusually high bills. Sir James Scott-Hopkins, the Euro-MP, says he received a £2,500 bill for a short trip in Europe. When he queried the amount the company told him: "Oh dear, not another one. We inadvertently pressed the wrong button on our computer." The sum billed was not in sterling but Norwegian kroner.

Honour satisfied

MORE than 200 years after their ancestors fought a duel to the death, Sir Andrew Duff Gordon and Sir Michael Thomas re-enacted the confrontation more peaceably yesterday evening. Brandishing pistols loaded with air rather than powder, the pair paced, shot, and then shook hands outside the Guards Museum near central London to end the feud which has allegedly existed between the families ever since the Hon Cosmo Gordon killed Colo-

nel Frederick Thomas in 1783. Colonel Thomas had accused young Gordon of cowardice in battle. Thomas was fatally wounded in the subsequent duel and Gordon fled the country. He was later tried at the Central Criminal Court in what is believed to be the last English trial for murder following a duel.

"It is not really a question of burying the hatchet," says Sir Andrew Duff Gordon, although he concedes that since the fateful day the two families have hardly been close. "I've never met Sir Michael or any of his family."

Grass is greener

GREEN products have long eschewed advertising as environmentally unsound. But Ecover, the "green" washing powder, has finally succumbed to the tricks of the marketing trade — with a difference. The company commissioned 50 different artists to create

It's more bovine than Ecover



advertisements made of old posters, chopped up and rearranged, and left them to interpret the theme. For the artist Peter Bateman, that meant coating his poster, on display in Hackney,

north London, with grass seeds. His design portrays the Thames, before and after it has flowed through a box of the washing powder. Naturally, after Ecover's cleansing, the river is clean and green — literally. To help the grass flourish, Bateman waters his billboard every day from atop a ladder. The first blades have just germinated on time for the Green party conference starting tomorrow in Wolverhampton.

Short-term solution

THE Hansard Society, which yesterday produced a report calling for fixed term parliaments, has not done its homework. The German model, which the society proposes to end manipulation of election dates by a British prime minister, has proved itself every bit as open to cynical exploitation.

Constitutionally, Germany has parliamentary elections every four years. Yet chancellor Helmut Kohl's first election victory was due to a blatant constitutional manoeuvre. Elected chancellor in October 1982, Kohl had, within three months, engineered a no-confidence debate in which his party then deliberately abstained to lose the vote. Kohl won the ensuing election with the best result for his Christian Democrats in 25 years.

● The environment department is concerned at the number of leaks from its committee working on the implementation of the council tax. As soon as an internal report is produced, it falls into the hands of not only the press but also of Labour's Bryan Gould or David Blunkett. The latest report, therefore, contains a large chunk devoted to the importance of treating its contents as confidential. How do we know this? A copy has just arrived under plain wrapper in the offices of the Municipal Journal.

سكزا من الاصل



THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Hong Kong's first direct elections have rebutted the paternalistic thesis that its voters are indifferent to how they are ruled. The United Democrats of Hong Kong and its allies, who campaigned on a platform of full democracy, won all but two of the 18 seats subject to direct popular vote. China's protégés won none. The British government must now make good its promise, made at the time of the Sino-British declaration in 1984, to "build up a firmly-based democratic administration" in Hong Kong before it is handed over to China in 1997.

There are two ways to do this. The first is to expand democratic opportunity, so far restricted on Peking's insistence to a mere 18 of the 60 seats in the legislative council (Legco) this year, 20 in 1995 and only half even in 2003. Douglas Hurd should inform China that Britain intends to open all 60 seats in the legislative council to direct vote in the next elections in 1995 and expects China to revise the "basic law" it has prepared for Hong Kong accordingly.

While welcoming the election results, Mr Hurd is still hedging, talking about "steady progress" to a "greater degree" of direct elections on a timescale spanning 1997. If Hong Kong's voters, who will live there after 1997, are willing to take the risk that Peking will destroy new democratic institutions, what right has Britain to deny them their choice? In Peking this month, Mr Major claimed that China agreed that "Hong Kong people should run Hong Kong". That means democracy or it means nothing.

China will exploit the low turnout in this election to argue that Martin Lee, the leader of the United Democrats, still cannot claim that he and his supporters represent Hong Kong's people. This is specious. Only half those eligible to vote registered, and less than 40 per cent of those actually voted. But Hong Kong was not being allowed to choose a government, only a third of the Legco, the less powerful of Hong Kong's two governing bodies. In Britain, far fewer people vote in

local government polls than in national elections. The right response would be to give voters a real stake in how Hong Kong is run.

While London and Peking argue about the next elections there is a second step that should be taken by Sir David Wilson, the governor of Hong Kong. He himself appoints a further 21 members of Legco, four of whom are civil servants. He should use this power of appointment to invest his colonial government with a cloak of at least partial democratic respectability.

Yesterday Mr Lee gave Sir David a list of liberal nominees for these appointed seats. Since a further 21 seats are indirectly elected by generally conservative professional and trade associations, some influenced by Peking and all leery of democracy, Sir David thus holds the balance of power. He could stack Legco against the democrats, or make appointments which reflect the voters' preferences, giving the democrats an effective majority on the council.

The governor's failure to give Mr Lee assurances on this point yesterday is pusillanimous. He is even more cautious about bringing liberals into the wholly-appointed executive council. Hong Kong's highest policy-making body, citing the need to maintain the confidentiality of its debates. His officials are also hinting that they must see whether Legco runs "smoothly" before contemplating an increase in the number of directly elected seats.

Democracy cannot be contingent on unspoken agreements not to rock the colonial boat. Britain defends the 1984 deal with China on the ground that Hong Kong will have a "high level of autonomy" after 1997. The opportunity to reinforce that autonomy now must not be missed. Mr Lee has said that if frustrated, he will seek direct talks with John Major. He should not need to do so. Mr Major spoke out well for human rights in Peking. He should slip the Foreign Office leash and lean on the Hong Kong government to give democracy its due.

BOUNDARIES OF DEVOLUTION

The British electoral system has many virtues, but it does not provide equal representation of voters in each constituency. Yesterday's report of the Hansard Society highlights this flaw, though it acknowledges the adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", and concludes: "The rules for the electoral process have served us well."

British elections are carried out at a lower cost than in virtually any other developed democracy. There is little evidence of corruption and general agreement on the scope of the franchise. The report, prepared by a group of politicians and election specialists, makes some sensible suggestions for tidying up the present system. The most far-reaching recommendation is to equalise the size of constituencies.

This might seem an obvious requirement in a parliamentary democracy. But in Britain the weight of each vote before it is cast is not the same. The average size of an English constituency is more than 69,000, compared with just over 54,000 in Scotland. The differences are even greater at the extremes. In the 1987 campaign the number of electors in the Isle of Wight was, at 98,000, four times larger than in the Western Isles.

These differences are not accidental. They reflect the separate boundary arrangements for the countries within the United Kingdom, underpinned by legislation which sets a minimum number of seats for Scotland and Wales. The growth of the population has been faster in England and the discrepancy has been only partially offset by the undesirable device of allowing the size of the House of Commons to expand, from 625 in 1950 to 651 at the coming general election.

Such imbalances are not confined to the Celtic fringe. Within England, London is over-represented, by 13 out of the present 84 seats, due to the convention that borough

boundaries should be respected. All these discrepancies should be ended, as the Hansard Society proposes, by having a single boundary review for the whole of the UK, with a uniform electoral quota. In the process, the total size of the Commons should not be increased.

The trouble with constitutional reform is the impediment of politics. A Conservative government might find it hard to reduce the number of Scottish seats in view of Labour's predominant position there. Any change would favour the Tories nationally and might risk inflaming nationalist tendencies. But Scotland has not always been a Labour stronghold, any more than England has always been a Tory one. There is no justification for inequality in seat distribution, either as an act of gerrymandering or as a sop to non-English regions.

On the other hand, a change in constituency boundaries should be linked to the one substantive constitutional reform which sooner or later will occur in the United Kingdom, the devolution of control over a wide range of social and domestic policy to locally elected assemblies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. That in turn raises the problem of what became known in the 1970s as the West Lothian question: what voting rights should Westminster MPs from areas with devolved assemblies have in the House of Commons?

The answer is simple. The House of Commons acts for the whole union on "union" affairs. Scottish, Welsh and Ulster MPs should not vote on matters exclusive to England and on which responsibility has been devolved to their own assemblies. This is similar to the distinction that is now being sought between European and British legislation. The only obstacle is the absence of a government with an interest in reform.

TRENDS AMONG FRIENDS

Every state since ancient times has accepted the arts as an appropriate object of public subsidy. None has quite known why. Today, however, the Treasury demands tougher meat on which to chew. The result is an Arts Council sponsored survey on the public and the arts, which purports to show that the majority of citizens loves the arts and wants more — though they do not say how much more should come from the public purse.

So far so joyous for the arts lobby. But as in most opinion polls, the answers are not handled with total dispassion. What is presented by the Arts Council's secretary general as a powerful weapon to deploy in bidding for public money could equally well support an opposing point of view.

The survey accorded artistic status variously to rock music, cinema, disco dancing, pantomime, country and western, visiting old houses, woodwork and reading books. On this basis, only the most vegetative couch potato is uncultured. Art is whatever we do with our leisure.

The most popular art forms are also the least subsidised. The survey shows the vitality of the market for the arts in Britain, a point neglected by the council in its conclusions. People can and do pay for their pleasures, including the arts. The survey does not answer the question which leisure activities should receive state support?

While a large majority of public subsidy for the arts is in favour of public subsidy for (69 per cent) in general, and a narrower one (55 per cent) for "new and experimental work", per cent) in neither case was it clear which arts the respondents had in mind. Since the cost of

enjoying their particular art was not a barrier to most respondents, the balance between supply and demand, price and subsidy was left unclear. The Treasury might well treat this survey as a crude lobbying exercise.

Certainly the number attending plays, concerts and galleries — mostly subsidised — gives the lie to those who claim arts subsidies go only to a tiny group of addicts. Most beneficiaries of arts subsidies are middle class. Those who enjoy subsidised art forms are, on the whole, poorer. The Arts Council refers to this uncomfortable fact as a "problem we will have to overcome". Its record over many years suggests that such assurances are humbug.

Arts subsidies rank among the most elitist of all forms of public spending and are best acknowledged as such. They go to art forms and institutions which have grown used to public support over the years. The selectivity is bizarre: why ballet so much more than other varieties of dance? Why opera and not (apart from the BBC's patronage) jazz? The answer lies in the intricate network of lobbying and precedent on which the Arts Council has based its patronage and to which Lord Palumbo, the present chairman, was thought to be an antidote. The network has proved more powerful than the man.

The arts lobby would do better to cut out the humbug, draw less attention to its elitist assumptions, and to go on giving public money to its friends. Some, at least, of its friends do produce great art, most of it for public enjoyment. Until somebody comes up with a better way of deciding which friends are the most deserving, the Arts Council should be left in peace.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Independence seen as key to torment in Yugoslavia

From Dr Drago Stambuk and others
Sir, Scores of people are being killed every day in Croatia. It is clear to us that the Serbian government and its ally the so-called Yugoslav People's Army are misusing the good offices of the European Community and exploiting its peace initiatives as a cover for their continuing aggression. It is time for the Community to end this dishonourable and deadly charade.

The member states of the European Community should immediately recognise all six constituent republics of Yugoslavia within their present borders as sovereign and independent states. This would enable these republics to join the United Nations and enjoy the UN's protection against aggression.

The Gulf war showed that the UN is still the only effective international organisation capable of repelling aggression. If Serbia continued its onslaught against Croatia, or extended it against Bosnia and Macedonia, the victims would have the same rights as Kuwait had last year to appeal to the Security Council for assistance against aggression.

Yours faithfully,
DRAGO STAMBUK,
JONATHAN ATKIN,
MARK ALMOND, PAUL BAILEY,
MELVYN BRAGG,
JONATHAN FRYER,
FRANCIS KING, DORIS LESSING,
DAVID MARSHALL,
BOGDAN LITKOWSKI,
GEORGE URBAN,
DAVID WESTOVER,
4 Abbeville Road, SW4,
September 13.

From Dr Kathleen V. Wilkes
Sir, I am writing from Dubrovnik. It is currently blockaded: airports and ports closed.

Dubrovnik has done nothing to provoke this blockade, this latest Serbian attack. But Dubrovnik is not the main point, even though

attacks on Dubrovnik — the cultural heart of this part of Europe — might serve to awaken people as attacks on Osijek, Petrinja, Vukovar, or other Croatian towns with names less familiar to the British public than Dubrovnik, do not.

But away from Dubrovnik, in Osijek the hospital operates underground; its cathedral has been savagely damaged, indeed, churches and cathedrals throughout Croatia (at present, more than 50) seem to have been priority targets of the Serbs. Petrinja is virtually destroyed. The army operates hand in hand with the Serbian insurgents. This at least, and at last, must surely be accepted as a fact by the international community.

The other vital point that has so far been missed by the British media is that the Serbs in Croatia, just as the other minorities here — Italians, Czechoslovaks, Hungarians, Germans — have enjoyed exactly the same rights as do the native Croats, as a glance at the constitution of the republic of Croatia would prove.

Tudjman [Croatian president] has never contemplated or suggested any removal of those rights. (Admittedly, any good PR firm would have told him that he should have battered this point home more forcibly for the last several months.)

There is, Sir, a simple answer, but it is one which the British government seems unable to contemplate. That is to recognise Croatia immediately and then to accede to any request from the Croatian government to send in a force to preserve the integrity of the republic. If not, teenagers will continue to die because of Ustashe/Cetnik excesses of 45 years ago.

But I very much fear that we shall again act too late and that Milosevic's actions against Croatia will mirror precisely those of Hitler against the Sudetenland. The par-

allels are all too bitterly, tragically, evident.

Yours sincerely,
KATHLEEN V. WILKES,
Inter-University Centre,
Frana Bulica 4,
50000 Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia.
September 17.

From Mr Osman Streater

Sir, You comment (leading article, September 17) on the mistaken response of the Dutch presidency of the EC to the situation in Yugoslavia in seeking to send British and French (but not, of course, Dutch) troops to be shot at. You do not, however, go on to finger the root cause of the problem, which is the nonsense of a presidency which revolves every six months — a nonsense which a proper federal system, as in the United States, would avert.

If the tenancy of the White House changed every six months between the 50 states in turn American foreign policy would be in a similar mess. The Dutch are eminent in many fields, but the coordination of military affairs is not one of them.

EC foreign policy should be permanently directed by member countries whose size and experience qualifies them for the job. Meanwhile we must be thankful for small mercies. It is fortunate that Luxembourg's turn at directing the foreign policy of 325 million Europeans recently came to an end. And if Buggins's turn had meant that it was Greece which was currently leading the Community doubtless the official EC solution to the crisis in Yugoslavia would have followed the lines of Greek solutions to everything: a massive loan to Athens, coupled with economic sanctions in Turkey.

Yours faithfully,
OSMAN STREATER,
Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, W1.

Docklands criticism

From Mr Michael Welbank

Sir, The Chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), David Hardy (September 12), pleads the case for a just assessment of Docklands' achievement. This is fair enough; but, alas, his case is inconsistent, flawed and against the evidence. The criticism that has been levelled all relates to the Isle of Dogs and the Enterprise Zone, where the action was totally development-led.

The LDDC originally presented itself as the champion of freedom from the "tyranny" of planning and the benefits of a development industry-led process. The Enterprise Zone, as we see it today, is the result — a major environmental failure rejected even by its own disciples. Freedom has become anarchy, producing poor working and travel conditions for thousands of people, an urban design shambles and intense congestion.

The LDDC was the landowner within the Enterprise Zone and it had almost total control of the process. In the face of current criticism, the LDDC has now turned

round and said it was all planned. That cannot be accepted and this claim does grave disservice to the cause of good planning.

Ten years ago, the Royal Town Planning Institute warned that the lack of strategic planning and environmental vision for the area would be disastrous. The results speak for themselves. However, what we see on the ground today comes from old decisions; many lessons have subsequently been learnt. The development of the Royal Docks could well usher in a new era of high-quality urban development for London.

These lessons will be even more critical for any special agency set up to construct the much-heralded east Thames corridor. Strategic planning, community involvement, vision, environmental aims, transport infrastructure and investment will all need to be brought together to achieve success on this scale — that is what good planning is all about.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WELBANK
(Senior Vice-President),
Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1,
September 17.

Silver spoons

From the President of the Historic Houses Association

Sir, Janet Daley in her article "Selling the silver spoon" (September 10) suggested on historic homes that "we are beguiled into maintaining their owners in the style to which they have become accustomed".

Last year the taxpayer, through English Heritage grants, contributed £1.8 million only towards maintaining some twenty thousand grade I and II* listed buildings.

The Historic Houses Association has been urging the government to allow owners to endow their own properties with tax-free irrevocable maintenance funds. This concession must be balanced by reasonable public access, and expenditure restricted solely to repairs and maintenance of the property, not for the benefit of the occupant.

Works of art will continue to be sold at the present alarming rate so long as revenue expenditure outstrips available income.

Yours faithfully,
SHELBURNE, President,
Historic Houses Association,
2 Chester Street, SW1.

Breast cancer

From Professor P. Gilroy Bevan

Sir, A great many women will be most concerned to read (report, September 13) that self-examination of the breast should be discouraged. The reason given by the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Donald Acheson, was the danger of promoting a sense of false security: this point is acknowledged, and should be counteracted by counselling.

However, I feel that this advice will cause such dismay among women and their medical advisers that it must be countered by stressing the traditional view of the value of regular examination of the breast by women.

After 40 years of experience in dealing with cancer of the breast, I am convinced that two simple principles help to detect a number of cases of early breast cancer at the stage of clinical cure.

1. All women over 30 should be encouraged, and instructed, how to palpate their breasts once a month, and report any lump felt to their doctor.

2. All doctors in all disciplines

Saving Heveningham

From Dr Richard Fordham

Sir, Marcus Bianey ("Heveningham's last chance", September 14) is arguing for government finance to restore a particularly fine historic house. Aside from the merits of this case, the solution of large-scale government cash is likely to be available only to a minority of the historic buildings which need restoration.

What of the rest? The choice is usually between "enabling" commercial development (the "ghastly planning gain syndrome") and demolition. In many cases demolition would be a loss; the building in question often gives character to a part of the country otherwise short of it. It is often better to have a historic house somewhat muddled by commercial development than no relic at all of that piece of social history.

As so often, planning gain is wrongly accused here. It has a valuable role, in cases where government cash is not available.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD FORDHAM,
91 Ledbury Road, W11.

Population control

From Mr Sjaak Bavelaar

Sir, I agree with Elena Hurtado (September 11) that poverty eradication should remain high on our agenda, but it should be just as clear that simultaneous attention to population growth and family planning needs will reinforce our efforts to help people in developing countries become economically self-sufficient. It is not a matter of either/or, population should be taken into account in all development planning.

The demographic and health surveys done in many developing countries around the world indicate that even in some African countries the very high fertility rates are now beginning to fall. But they also show that there is a vast unmet need for family planning. The numbers of women who want to be able to control their fertility but simply do not have access to the means to do so are still staggering. Should we deny them this possibility to have

Unfamiliar names

From Mr Graham Pointon

Sir, I would like to set the record straight for the BBC on place-names. The Pronunciation Research Unit does not decide policy on the form of names used. For instance we make recommendations for both spellings of the Chinese capital: Beijing and Peking.

Professor Webb (September 5) is confusing two issues when he lumps together Peking, Burma and Ceylon: the Chinese have not changed the name of their capital city, but merely adopted a different romanised spelling of the same name. On the other hand, Burma and Ceylon have had their names changed, to Myanmar and Sri Lanka respectively.

We have no more right to reject the new names than to continue calling British Coal the National Coal Board. Does Professor Webb wish us to continue using the name Tsarsyn for a city best-known to the English-speaking world as Stalingrad, but now called Volgograd?

Yours sincerely,
G. E. POINTON
(Pronunciation adviser),
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House,
Langham Place, W1,
September 12.

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Harder to remember?

From Brigadier M. P. Ford

Sir, I sympathise with and share Admiral Sir James Eberle's loss of memory syndrome (September 13). Perhaps part of the difficulty is that the condition is not taken seriously enough by the medical establishment.

I am still grappling with the logic of a recent suggestion by my doctor that the phenomenon is not real but only in my mind.

Yours faithfully,
M. P. FORD,
Lansdowne Club,
9 Fitzmaurice Place, W1.

From Mrs Jill Wilson

Sir, An article I read recently postulated the theory that nowadays we are bombarded with such a surfeit of information through the media that the human brain is quite unable to store it all, resulting in selective loss of memory.

Unfortunately, I cannot recall where I read it.

Yours faithfully,
JILL WILSON,
Corner Barns, Michelmersh,
Nr Romsey, Hampshire.

Mothers in prison apart from babies

From Ms Helena Kennedy, QC

Sir, The Home Office's decision to remove two nine-month-old babies from their mothers in Holloway prison's mother and baby unit (report, later editions, September 13) is deeply disturbing. These women are not being separated from their children because they are unsuitable mothers, but because of a late Home Office decision that they cannot be transferred to Askham Grange open prison (where their children could have stayed with them up to the age of 18 months).

There appear to be two obstacles to a transfer to an open prison. First, a new Home Office policy prohibits prisoners who are recommended for a period of more than six months of their sentence in an open prison. This policy is supposedly a reaction to absconding by foreign prisoners in open prisons — yet women in mother and baby units are not the ones involved in escape attempts.

The Home Office also argues that it would be inappropriate to transfer these two women to open prisons at an early stage in their sentence. But if they are otherwise suitable for open conditions, why should they not be moved there early in the sentence, especially when the alternative would have such devastating effects for both mothers and children?

This decision has caused great concern to other women recommended for deportation in the Holloway unit whose babies are now younger. They know that, if these two babies are removed from their mothers, the same thing is likely to happen to their own babies weeks or months from now.

It is not too late to think again about this unfortunate decision and to exempt mothers with young children from the regrettable new policy on the allocation of women awaiting deportation to open prisons.

Yours faithfully,
HELENA A. KENNEDY,
Doughty Street Chambers,
11 Doughty Street, WC1.

Wildlife on Malta

From Mrs Beatrice Dennis

Sir, I read with dismay the letter from the Maltese High Commissioner regarding wildlife on Malta (September 9). The impression he gives could not be further from the truth. Legislation may date back to 1930, but the fact remains that no elected government has had the political courage to enforce it.

"Bird sanctuaries" there may be, but no real effort whatever has been made to stop the incessant slaughter of migratory birds by repeater shotguns that persists from dawn to dusk even in these so-called "sanctuaries".

The Malta Ornithological Society has a hopeless task on its hands against powerful vested interests. Education is its hopeful response to this situation: I am afraid it is unrealistically optimistic. The only effective weapon will be an economic one, and I strongly support Ms Carla Lane in her campaign to stop people holidaying in Malta (Life and Times, August 19).

Yours faithfully,
BEATRICE DENNIS,
Mavis Cottage, Kingswood,
Kingston, Herefordshire,
September 11.

Population control

From Mr Sjaak Bavelaar

Sir, I agree with Elena Hurtado (September 11) that poverty eradication should remain high on our agenda, but it should be just as clear that simultaneous attention to population growth and family planning needs will reinforce our efforts to help people in developing countries become economically self-sufficient. It is not a matter of either/or, population should be taken into account in all development planning.

The demographic and health surveys done in many developing countries around the world indicate that even in some African countries the very high fertility rates are now beginning to fall. But they also show that there is a vast unmet need for family planning. The numbers of women who want to be able to control their fertility but simply do not have access to the means to do so are still staggering. Should we deny them this possibility to have

more control over their lives?

Mrs Hurtado is right in saying that we should not see population growth as the single root cause of environmental degradation. However, just last week the Food and Agriculture Organisation published a report which claims that 75 per cent of the world's deforestation takes place because of increasing land needs for housing, services, infrastructure, fuel wood, food production, etc., which are directly related to growing numbers of people.

This would suggest that by far the most important cause of deforestation is human population growth. There should be no room for doubt about the population issue being addressed at the UN Conference on the Environment and Development next year.

Yours etc.,
SJAAK BAVELAAR, Director,
World Population Foundation,
Derkindenlaan 14,
1251 EM Laren, The Netherlands,
September 13.

Harder to remember?

From Sir Alan Green

Sir, Admiral Eberle is not the only distinguished sufferer of LMS (loss of memory syndrome). Sir Ray Brown, co-founder of Racial Electronics whose obituary you published today (September 16), was recently reported to me as saying that when entering a room full of familiar faces, the only name he could bring to mind was Alzheimer.

Yours faithfully,
A. GREEN,
86 Hackington Road, Tyler Hill,
Canterbury, Kent.

From Sir Henry McDowell

Sir, Harder to remember? I have no difficulty in remembering that I put it in a specially safe place.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY McDOWELL,
2 Donne Court,
Burbage Road, SE24.

From Mr Peter Tozer

Sir, Regarding the letter in your column from Admiral Sir James Eberle...

Yours faithfully,
P. TOZER,
1 Osborne Road,
Hornchurch, Essex.

Ring shining only fitfully



Helga Dernesch, left, as Fricka and Deborah Riedel as Freia in a production that has a sombre, enclosed look

Das Rheingold
Covent Garden

THE meaty programme for this Royal Opera Ring, the first complete cycle since 1982, includes a stimulating range of responses to Shaw's dictum that the work is "a drama of today and not of remote and fabulous antiquity". The danger it seems most likely to meet from present directors, however, is that of appearing a drama of the remote and fabulous 19th century. Enough has been said already about the grey sheet-metal "time tunnel" that so dominates Götz Friedrich's production, and gives it a sombre, enclosed look. What we now meet in *Das Rheingold*, the last part of this version to be unveiled, is a *Loge* in the image of the composer.

All these references to the times, conditions and personalities of the work's genesis were not new when this production had its first outings in Berlin in 1984-5, and they are now distinctly tired: the Ring is fearfully in need of some quite new vision. As it was, the dramatic life on this opening night was fitful, and with it the musical life too — partly because, so it seemed, Bernhard Haitink in the pit was caught up in the certainty and energy that came out of the outstanding performances, those of Ekkehard Wächter as Alberich, Kenneth Riegel as Loge, Deborah Riedel as Freia and Anne Gjevang as Erda.

This closeness of the orchestra to the stage went all through, with sound that was robustly physical and present, and a shade too coarsely so where the heavy brass were concerned. There was thus a high degree of *clash* despite some measured tempos: there was also an electric clarity of counterpoint, notably in the transition to the Nibelheim scene, though here, and at the close of the same scene, the liveliness threatened to be lost in the confusion of brightness and majesty. The closing of the Ring is an encouraging sign of what Haitink is pushing towards, without having quite yet got there consistently.

Maybe it will be hard for him to do so with the present set. In order to offer any suggestion of liquidity in the first scene it was necessary to resort to the stage device of an undulating iridescent gauze, though that had the

advantage of generally concealing the Rheingarden in their silver leotards. Magic was missed at the end of this scene when the gold, seemingly a large-scale model of atomic structure, was not stolen by Alberich but clanked off into the flies. Valhalla, too, made a dismal impression as a model Tardis, with no rainbow bridge to be summoned by Donner: an unhappy Donald Maxwell made to look and behave like a prizefighter.

Much the most visually arresting scene was that of the Tarnhelm game, with Alberich in his cheap technological air appearing, despite his Victorian mill-owner attire, like a mountaineer in a fairground booth.

The humour of the scene was for once given an appropriate dramatic realisation, and so was Loge's smart irony, thanks to Riegel's command of stage and text. His singing too, with blooms of tone set among theory lines, has an awkward sort of rightness about it.

Wächter's Alberich very quickly recovered from a weak start to sputter with dark, proselytised venom. His curve was magnificently delivered: a fierce challenge in terms of musical quality as much as in its message. Of the others I mentioned before, Riedel's flights as Freia were beautifully shaped, coloured and controlled (so were Gillian Webster's as the brilliant top Rheingarden),

and Gjevang was a superb Erda. There were striking contributions, too, from Franz-Josef Selig as a coldly fresh Fafner, and from Kim Begley as a resilient Froh, bravely maintaining his dignity despite the production's attempt to send him up. James Morris as Wotan was only intermittently at his serene best: much was lost through unclear diction and a worrying vibrato. Helga Dernesch's stinging Fricka was also somewhat hampered, by a doubtful bottom register. One can hope for better things from these two, and for a general girding up of loins, for *Die Walküre* next week.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Olaf Baer
Queen Elizabeth
Hall

THE first withdrawal symptoms are being felt at the start of a long year of Wigmore Hall deprivation. When Olaf Baer opened the South Bank's International Song Recital Series, Schubert's late songs, gathered together as his *Schwanengesang*, found themselves being projected out over the hot stage lighting and up into the wide areas of the Queen Elizabeth Hall rather than being confined to the intimacy of London's very own Schubertade.

This is not, of course, an unfamiliar venue for Baer. But artists less accustomed to its unwieldy spaces must compensate by tightening their own focus of concentration. After a somewhat diffident "Liebesbotschaft", articulated more from the lips than from the diaphragm, Baer started to make the notes really work. The weight of each carefully placed word, the flicker of internal and external flame in the "Soldier's Forbearing" brought its war lament to life.

The Drummer
Watermill, Newbury

The Lumber Room of British drama is piled high with comedies unperformed for two or more centuries and here is another, first staged anonymously in 1716, and a failure, but cannily revived with the author's name attached. Since that name was Joseph Addison, the respected moralist and ambitious politician — not necessarily an impossible conjunction even in those days — the play became a success.

His other dramatic work, *Cato*, is a neo-classical tragedy of pulverising propriety, and the moral tone of this comedy is also above reproach. Social changes were bringing down the curtain on the sexual shenanigans of Restoration comedy and Addison's play hints at the way the times were moving: decent country squires recognising the virtue of their faithful servants and vice versa, loyal wives and not vicious villains. No real villains at all, for Tinsel, the man about town, and Fantome, the doxy lover, are both courting

Lady Truman in the belief that her husband was killed in battle the previous year.

Lady Truman's bustling maid, Abigail (Barbara Ewing), pursues Fantome (Gordon Lovitt) to dress up as the ghost of the dead man, hide in the secret closets of the Truman mansion, and beat a drum when Tinsel presses his suit too closely.

This is an ingenious and novel piece of stagecraft, though after introducing it in an early scene, where terrified servants drink themselves daff, Addison neglects its comic possibilities until near the end. The plot also takes a long time to take shape, with much talk but little wit, and a lot of time and energy spent by the cast frisking and gesturing as if by this to impart liveliness to their plain lines.

Still, Wendy Toye's brisk direction is obviously the way to deal with the play, and after an hour or so the last triangles and comic pretences have been set up and it is then a matter of scaring off the two unwanted suitors and bringing Lady Truman's husband back from the grave, hale and hearty.

A better or less moral dramatist would have made a genuinely original character

out of the free-thinking Tinsel, whose heretical views are at least a generation ahead of their time. Addison, however, soon turns him into an affected fortune-hunter, though even here there is no real offence to the fellow. Alan Conroy plays him sparkishly in a silver wig with sequins glittering on his cheeks, but one cannot help regretting the character who never quite emerged from the inkwell.

Andrew Hall is the heroic husband, comically disguised as a Dutch conjurer, and John Conroy makes an endearing character of his fustiest steward, Vellum, coughing up little laughs at his little jokes, even permitting himself a few steps of a jig. The phrase "walls have ears" seems to have originated in this play, though it is the actor or director who comes up with the nicely pronounced quote: "honestfranchise" (sic). "You will be laid this evening," is an odd line to hear spoken in dainty society, but it is told, a supposed ghost, so makes it all right. No forgotten masterpiece has been unearthed in this production, but the evening passes agreeably enough.

JEREMY KINGSTON

NEW RELEASES

CAFEZA DE VACA (12): Jorging Maccioni epic about a Spanish conquistador captured by Aztecs. Director: Nicolas Schoenherr. MCA (071-437 0707).

ONLY THE LONELY (12): John Candy as a backbeat cop finding love and trying to escape his mother's a priori strings. Lovable romantic comedy from Home Alone director Chris Columbus. With Marisa Tomei, Wilson Fichtelberg. Cannon (071-438 8881) Odeon Kensington (0428 914888) Plaza (071-437 5555) Whiteleys (071-782 3254).

REGARDING HENRY (12): Master of the Universe turns nice guy after suffering brain damage in a robbery. Starring Harrison Ford, Annette Bening, Barbra Streisand. Cannon (071-438 8881) Odeon Kensington (0428 914888) Plaza (071-437 5555) Whiteleys (071-782 3254).

TRUE IDENTITY (12): Lenny Henry winds out a few laughs from a true Hollywood script about an actor in trouble with the Mob. With Frank Langella, director: Charles Lane. Odeon Kensington (071-438 8881) Plaza (071-437 5555) Whiteleys (071-782 3254).

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CINEMA GUIDE

GOFF BROWN'S assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (4) on release across the country.

EDWARD GORBORHANDS (PG): Tim Burton's captivating fantasy about a boy with a passion for hats at large in American suburbia. With Johnny Depp, Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder. Cannon (071-438 8881) Odeon Kensington (0428 914888) Plaza (071-437 5555) Whiteleys (071-782 3254).

HENRY: PORTRAIT OF A SERIAL KILLER (18): Devastating, fly-on-the-wall study of human depravity in Chicago. Director: John McNaughton. Cannon (071-438 8881) Odeon Kensington (0428 914888) Plaza (071-437 5555) Whiteleys (071-782 3254).

JUNGLE FEVER (18): Surly, over-the-top Spike Lee film about interracial relationships, with stirring moments among the turmoil. Starring Wesley Snipes, Cuba Gooding Jr. Cannon (071-438 8881) Odeon Kensington (0428 914888) Plaza (071-437 5555) Whiteleys (071-782 3254).

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BEC 1

6.00 CeeFax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series 9.30 *The Seaside*
 Cleveon and Porthead light railway and its "blackberry picking specials" (r)
10.00 News, regional news and weather **10.05 Playdays (r)** 10.25
Bump 10.35 Raggedy Ann and Andy
11.00 News, regional news and weather **11.05 The High Chaparral.**
 Vintage Western series about a rich Arizona rancher and his sons
 during the 1870s (r) **11.55 Reviving Antiques.** How to restore old
 fabrics
12.00 News, regional news and weather **12.05 Dive to the Edge of**
Creation. A National Geographic Society documentary exploring
 life forms 8,000 feet beneath the Pacific on the Galapagos Rift
12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
2.05 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) **1.50 Four Squares.** Quiz show (s)
2.15 Knots Landing. Spin-off from the Dallas saga about four couples
 living in a California cul-de-sac
3.05 Pat Marshall 1.40 Newsline 2.30
 Foults in the single frame football competition
3.30 Cartoon Triple Bill (r) 3.50 *Poddington Peas.* Cartoon (r) **3.55**
Radio Roo. Episode four of the five-part children's comedy (r) (s)
4.10 Headbitch with Cats and Co (r) 4.35 *Heartbeat.* (s)
 An entertaining guide to picture making. (Ceefax)
5.00 Newsline. The series of reports on the Japan Festival continues
 with news of a computerised link with children in Japan **5.10**
Byker Grove. Episode 16 of the 20-part children's drama series set
 in and around a north-east urban centre (r). (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) **5.40 Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster**
5.50 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 England v West Indies. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Liverpool in Europe: Liverpool v Kuusysi Lahti. European football
 was six years ago at the Heysel stadium in Belgium. The outcome
 of the match was almost forgotten in the wake of a tragedy in
 which 39 spectators were crushed to death. It made unforgettable
 television, though not the sort that anyone wants to see again
 Viewers will be hoping that the drama tonight stays exclusively on
 the pitch as Liverpool take on the Finnish side, Kuusysi Lahti, in the
 UEFA cup at Anfield. With ITV screening the Manchester United
 and Arsenal games live, there is an awful lot of European football
 on the small screen today. Unless the British clubs get themselves
 knocked out at an early stage, this could be the pattern for several
 Wednesday nights to come. Liverpool, at least, seem bound to go
 further. Those who do not stand football have been warned. (s)
 Northern Ireland: plus highlights of Bangor v Clonsilla
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news
 and weather



Vietnam war babies search for their American roots (9.30pm)

9.30 Inside Story: The Search
 CHOICE: Michael Gribbsy is one of the few documentary film-
 makers to put a personal signature on his work. He goes beyond
 straight reportage to present a deeper, often poetic, truth realised
 through the creative use of sound and image. In *The Search* his
 ostensible subject is three young victims of the Vietnam war. They
 are among the thousands of children who were born
 Vietnamese mothers and to American fathers who abandoned them.
 Gribbsy follows their attempts to make new lives in the
 United States and to search for their fathers. He sets these
 individual human stories against the wider context of the Vietnam
 war, evoked in the news footage of the time, and against the
 backdrop of America in 1991 as it prepares for the conflict in the
 Gulf. There is no commentary. Gribbsy builds his film from first-
 hand testimonies and a wide feel for the American landscape. He
 uses natural sounds and is never afraid of silence. (Ceefax)
10.45 Sportnight introduced by Desmond Lynam. Highlights of
 Liverpool's UEFA cup match with Kuusysi Lahti of Finland; Celtic's
 match with KFC Elvanor of Belgium in the same competition; and
 Rangers' European cup visit to Sparta Prague. Plus a round-up of
 the other European competitions matches **11.45 Weather**
 NB: (s) indicates stereo

BEC 2

6.00 CeeFax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series 9.30 *The Seaside*
 Cleveon and Porthead light railway and its "blackberry picking
 specials" (r)
10.00 News, regional news and weather **10.05 Playdays (r)** 10.25
Bump 10.35 Raggedy Ann and Andy
11.00 News, regional news and weather **11.05 The High Chaparral.**
 Vintage Western series about a rich Arizona rancher and his sons
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2.15 Knots Landing. Spin-off from the Dallas saga about four couples
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3.05 Pat Marshall 1.40 Newsline 2.30
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 on the small screen today. Unless the British clubs get themselves
 knocked out at an early stage, this could be the pattern for several
 Wednesday nights to come. Liverpool, at least, seem bound to go
 further. Those who do not stand football have been warned. (s)
 Northern Ireland: plus highlights of Bangor v Clonsilla
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news
 and weather

RADIO 3

6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only)
 6.55am Social Sciences Foundation Course
6.55 Weather. News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert. Hilda (Ballet, The Perfect Fool, Delia (Lia Caidin) Elgar Overture, Fauré)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont)
 Enescu (Romanian Rhapsody No 2), Smetana (Vltava), Kodály (Peacock Variations)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week. Fauré: Dolly Suite, Op 56 (Katie and Martine Labadie, pianos), Nocturne No 6 in D flat, Op 63 (Jean-Philippe Collard, piano), Pano Quintet No 1, Op 89 (Quinteto Fauré de Roma)
9.35 Midweek Choice. with Susan Sharpe. Bach, ar Holst (Fugue a la Gigue Boston Pops Orchestra under Arthur Fiedler), Moschies (Piano Concerto in G minor, Op 10), Michael Ponti, Philadelphia Hungaria under Othmar Karas, Prokofiev (Kulcov's Archa War and Peace Ivan Fyodorov, unaccompanied orchestra), Walter Legel (Harpichord Concertino Trevor Pinnock, London Philharmonic Orchestra under Nicholas Braithwaite), Tippett (Five Negro Spirituals, A Child of Our Time, Church of St Martin in the Fields under Neville Martin)
12.10pm BBC Scottish SO under Jeremy McKimmie performs: Four Ballads, Agostinelli, Leonore No 1, Elgar (Elegy for Strimling), Haydn (Symphony No 103 in E flat, Duet Roll (r))
1.00 News
1.05 Concert Hall Live from Broadcasting House, London: Lorraine McLellan, violin, Nigel Clayton, piano, perform: Four Pieces, Op 37, Britten (Suite Op 36), Brahms (Sonata No 3 in D minor, Op 108)
2.00 Record Review (r)

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BEC 3

6.45 Open University: Database Developments 7.10 Oil: Finds for the
 Future. Ends at 7.35
8.00 News
8.15 The Gun. Series on the history and development of firearms (r)
8.30 The Journey. Peter Terson and Dennis Skilicom continue their
 travels along the old pilgrims' way between Winchester and
 Canterbury and leave Chevening for Wrotham (r)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes
9.00 News and weather followed by *You and Me (r)* 2.15 *Arthur*
 Negus Enjoys. Floral artist George Smith joins Arthur Negus on a
 visit to Durdunston in Shropshire which houses a collection of 18th-
 century Dutch flower paintings as well as porcelain and furniture (r)
2.35 Country File. John Craven reports on owners of historic country
 houses and estates who can no longer afford the upkeep on their
 properties (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by *The Wreck of the Mary Rose.*
 The second of three documentaries on the salvaging of Henry VIII's
 battleship which sank in the Solent in 1545. 3.55 *News,* regional
 news and weather
4.00 Peter the Great. Episode three of the four-part dramatisation of
 the life and times of the celebrated Russian tsar (r). (Ceefax)
5.30 John Tovey's understanding on a Plate. The *Radio Times* food
 writer prepares roast leg of lamb flavoured with coriander, garlic
 and rosemary followed by pear and ginger lambous pie
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Space age adventures about
 the crew of the starship Enterprise. (Ceefax)
6.45 DEF II begins with Theatre Challenge. In the first of two
 programmes Annalisa Forna follows three youth theatre groups
 involved in the Lloyd Bank Theatre Challenge. 7.00 *Glasgow Eight.*
 Lisa L'Anson reviews the French adventure sports series *Pushing*
 the Limits
8.00 Timewatch: Beside Franco in Spain
 CHOICE: Sandra Gregory's film takes a fresh look at British
 involvement in the Spanish civil war and reveals that behind the
 official stance of neutrality there was strong covert support for the
 Nationalists and General Franco. The claim of the programme to
 provide "explosive new evidence" from Spanish archives must
 taken with a pinch of salt, since the overall picture does not differ
 greatly from that of the accepted version. It has long been
 established that the British attitude was governed partly by a fear
 of communism, but mostly by the desire not to be embroiled in a
 conflict with Hitler's Germany. However, the film does bring out the extent to which, as one foreign office man put it,
 the government was "praying for the victory of Franco". Whether
 Britain's attitude made as important a contribution as the
 programme suggests is another matter



Wheelchair-bound: Charles Simon, left, John Hurt (9.00pm)

9.00 ScreenPlay: Journey to Knock (1991)
 CHOICE: A first television script by the *Coronation Street* actor
 William Ivory is a blackish comedy charting the bumpy progress of
 three pilgrims from a hospice in Nottingham to the holy shrine of
 Knock in the west of Ireland. What gives the story its special point
 and flavour is that the men are all confined to wheelchairs. Johnny
 (Charles Simon) is an elderly war veteran who has come to accept his
 lot. Terry (David Thewlis), a young man with motor neurone
 disease, is bitter and incontinent. Althea (John Hurt), an accident
 victim, comes somewhere in between, a cynic but a realist. Their
 picaresque adventures on the road form the framework for an
 exploration of disability that is sometimes painful, often funny
 and never sentimental. The director, David Whalley, maintains a
 brisk pace and three central performances are excellent. The
 current *ScreenPlay* season ends on a very high note. (Ceefax)
10.15 ScreenPlay Firsts: Sunday on Mars. A National Film School
 production, written and directed by David Hill, about a young boy
 spending a boring Sunday afternoon with his grandparents
10.30 Newswatch with Jeremy Paxman
11.15 The Late Show. American poet Robert Bly talks about his book
Iron John which has topped the American bestseller list all year
11.55 Weather
12.00 Open University: Literature in the Modern World 12.25am
 The Getting of Judgment. Ends at 12.55
 NB: (s) indicates stereo

BEC 4

6.45 Open University: Database Developments 7.10 Oil: Finds for the
 Future. Ends at 7.35
8.00 News
8.15 The Gun. Series on the history and development of firearms (r)
8.30 The Journey. Peter Terson and Dennis Skilicom continue their
 travels along the old pilgrims' way between Winchester and
 Canterbury and leave Chevening for Wrotham (r)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes
9.00 News and weather followed by *You and Me (r)* 2.15 *Arthur*
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 visit to Durdunston in Shropshire which houses a collection of 18th-
 century Dutch flower paintings as well as porcelain and furniture (r)
2.35 Country File. John Craven reports on owners of historic country
 houses and estates who can no longer afford the upkeep on their
 properties (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by *The Wreck of the Mary Rose.*
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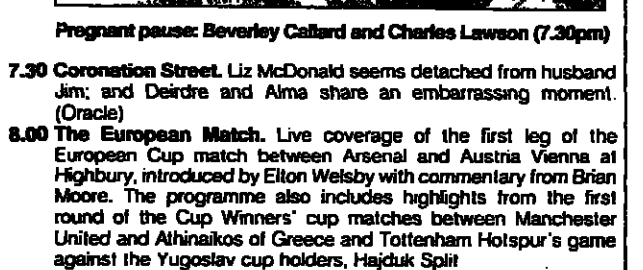
RADIO 4

6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only)
 6.55am Social Sciences Foundation Course
6.55 Weather. News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert. Hilda (Ballet, The Perfect Fool, Delia (Lia Caidin) Elgar Overture, Fauré)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont)
 Enescu (Romanian Rhapsody No 2), Smetana (Vltava), Kodály (Peacock Variations)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week. Fauré: Dolly Suite, Op 56 (Katie and Martine Labadie, pianos), Nocturne No 6 in D flat, Op 63 (Jean-Philippe Collard, piano), Pano Quintet No 1, Op 89 (Quinteto Fauré de Roma)
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1.00 News
1.05 Concert Hall Live from Broadcasting House, London: Lorraine McLellan, violin, Nigel Clayton, piano, perform: Four Pieces, Op 37, Britten (Suite Op 36), Brahms (Sonata No 3 in D minor, Op 108)
2.00 Record Review (r)

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BEC 5

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Runway. Richard Madeley hosts the quiz game show with
 holdovers as prizes (s) 9.55 *Thames News* and weather
10.00 The Time... The Piece... Mike Scott chairs a topical
 discussion
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine presented by Judy Finnigan and
 Richard Madeley. Including national and international news at
 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather
12.10 Allsorts. Young children's entertainment (r)
12.30 News with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 *Thames News* and
 weather
1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial (Oracle) 1.50 *A*
Practice. Medical drama serial set in the Australian
 outback (s)
2.20 The European Match. Live coverage from Athens of the
 European Cup Winners' Cup match between the holders,
 Manchester United, and Athletic of Greece. The commentators
 are Alan Parry and Denis Law
4.35 Cartoon Time 4.40 World Children's comedy drama series about
 a boy who turns into a dog when he least expects it (r). (Oracle) (s)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers. The
 questionmaster is Bob Holness
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather
5.55 Thames Play. Jackie Sprackley with details of the Gingerbread
 organisation for lone parents
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle)
6.30 Thames News (Oracle)
7.00 Never the Twain. Amiable and seemingly indestructible comedy
 series starring Donald Sinden and Windsor Davies as rival antique
 dealers. This week, Sinden (Sinden), is converted by a park
 preacher and tries to get Oliver (Davies) to take the straight and
 narrow path



Pregnant pause: Beverly Coland and Charles Lawson (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street. Liz McDonald seems detached from husband
 Jim, and Deirdre and Alma share an embarrassing moment.
 (Oracle)
8.00 The European Match. Live coverage of the first leg of the
 European Cup match between Arsenal and Austria Vienna at
 Highbury, introduced by Elton Wesley with commentary from Brian
 Moore. The programme also includes highlights from the first
 round of the Cup Winners' cup matches between Manchester
 United and Athletic of Greece and Tottenham Hotspur's game
 against the Yugoslav cup holders, Hajduk Split
10.15 News with Alan Parry and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle)
 Weather 10.45 *Thames News* and weather
10.55 Film: Gambit (1966). Relaxed, sometimes too relaxed, comedy
 thriller starring Michael Caine in his first Hollywood role as an
 incompetent cockney conman who plans to steal a priceless
 statue. Shirley Maclaine plays his accomplice, a dancer in a Hong
 Kong night club, and Herbert Ross is the treasure's millionaire
 owner. Directed by British veteran Ronald Neame
12.55 Film: Escape (1971) starring Christopher George, Gloria Grahame
 and Marilyn Mason. A made-for-television drama, a pilot for an
 aborted series, about an escape artist who uses his special skills to
 uncover a plot involving a supposedly dead scientist and his guilt-
 ridden brother. Directed by John Llewellyn Moxey
2.15 America's Top Ten introduced by Tommy Puetz and Casey
 Kasem (s)
2.40 Videofashion. The latest fashions from around the world
3.10 Question Night. The questionmaster is Martin Roberts
3.40 Horse. A lively riders compete in a special challenge
 event on the Ardingly cross-country course in Sussex
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). Archive newscasts from September 1941
5.00 Witness to Survival. Two more stories of individuals surviving
 against all the odds
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00
 NB: (s) indicates stereo

BEC 6

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Runway. Richard Madeley hosts the quiz game show with
 holdovers as prizes (s) 9.55 *Thames News* and weather
10.00 The Time... The Piece... Mike Scott chairs a topical
 discussion
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine presented by Judy Finnigan and
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RADIO 5

6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only)
 6.55am Social Sciences Foundation Course
6.55 Weather. News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert. Hilda (Ballet, The Perfect Fool, Delia (Lia Caidin) Elgar Overture, Fauré)
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8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week. Fauré: Dolly Suite, Op 56 (Katie and Martine Labadie, pianos), Nocturne No 6 in D flat, Op 63 (Jean-Philippe Collard, piano), Pano Quintet No 1, Op 89 (Quinteto Fauré de Roma)
9.35 Midweek Choice. with Susan Sharpe. Bach, ar Holst (Fugue a la Gigue Boston Pops Orchestra under Arthur Fiedler), Moschies (Piano Concerto in G minor, Op 10), Michael Ponti, Philadelphia Hungaria under Othmar Karas, Prokofiev (Kulcov's Archa War and Peace Ivan Fyodorov, unaccompanied orchestra), Walter Legel (Harpichord Concertino Trevor Pinnock, London Philharmonic Orchestra under Nicholas Braithwaite), Tippett (Five Negro Spirituals, A Child of Our Time, Church of St Martin in the Fields under Neville Martin)
12.10pm BBC Scottish SO under Jeremy McKimmie performs: Four Ballads, Agostinelli, Leonore No 1, Elgar (Elegy for Strimling), Haydn (Symphony No 103 in E flat, Duet Roll (r))
1.00 News
1.05 Concert Hall Live from Broadcasting House, London: Lorraine McLellan, violin, Nigel Clayton, piano, perform: Four Pieces, Op 37, Britten (Suite Op 36), Brahms (Sonata No 3 in D minor, Op 108)
2.00 Record Review (r)

2.00 Record Review (r)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel 4 Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 Stolen Childhood. The second programme in the series marking
 the United Nations convention on rights of the child focuses on
 Martina, a Swede who was diagnosed at birth as having Down's
 syndrome but through the strength and purpose of mind of her
 mother has managed to live a normal and rewarding life
 culminating in her graduation from music college (r)
12.30 Business Daily presented by Susanah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series
2.00 West Country Journey. A 1953 British Rail documentary following
 a train journey through the picturesque west country,
 accompanied by readings of literature from the region (r)
2.35 Film: Of Human Hearts (1938, b/w). Strongly acted drama, set
 during the American civil war, about a mariner minister in Ohio
 (Walter Huston) who forces his family to live in poverty to set an
 example to the rest of his flock. But his son (James Stewart) tries to
 break his father's iron grip by deciding to go east and study
 medicine. With Beulah Bondi as the mother and John Carradine as
 Abraham Lincoln. Directed by Clarence Brown
4.30 Countdown. Another round of the words and numbers game
 hosted by Richard Wileley
5.00 Willa the Wisp. Cartoon series set in a ghostly forest
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Man who have walked on the moon
 talk about their experiences. With James Irwin, who died shortly
 after the programme was made. Buzz Aldrin, Ed Mitchell and
 Charles Duke
6.00 Kate & Allie. American comedy about two divorced mothers
 sharing a Greenwich Village home
6.30 Saturday Night Takeaway. Presented by Ann Bryson and Marie
 McEneaney. Includes an interview with Jodie Holland, currently on
 Channel 4's *The Happening* on Friday nights; Danni Minogue talks
 about her life; Paul McCartney on his new film *Get Back*; and
 Bridget Nelson on her epic *She-Hulk*. Plus a look at the auditions
 for a new presenter of *The Word*
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext)
 Weather
7.50 Comment
8.00 Brookside. Topical soap set in a suburban Merseyside close.
 (Teletext)
8.30 Check Out 81. Consumer offers series. Tina Jenkins investigates
 why ministers are refusing to allow the distribution of Language in
 the National Curriculum (Linc) material to schools; and Simon
 Walton tries to find out whether credit card companies really
 cards to people because they are too good a risk



Driven from their homeland: Afghanistan refugees (9.00pm)

9.00 The Dispossessed: No Going Back. The third of four
 documentaries about people forced to flee their homes because of
 war or famine focuses on Afghan refugees
10.00 The Golden Girls. Widescreen comedy with the four Miami
 matrons, starring Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan, Betty White and
 Estelle Getty
10.35 Homeland. A timely repeat of Italia prize-winning Latvian director
 Yuris Podnieks' personal study of Baltic nationalism
12.20am Frank's Place. West comedy starring Tim Rice as a staid
 Boston college professor who inherits a New Orleans restaurant
12.50 Film: Exit (1983). A short film from Italy set in the 36th century
 when a group of anthropological explorers chance upon a perfectly
 preserved 20th century cinema. In Italian with English subtitles
 Directed by Pino Quartullo and Sergio Reali. Ends at 1.05
 NB: (s) indicates stereo

SATellite

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Runway. Richard Madeley hosts the quiz game show with
 holdovers as prizes (s) 9.55 *Thames News* and weather
10.00 The Time... The Piece... Mike Scott chairs a topical
 discussion
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine presented by Judy Finnigan and
 Richard Madeley. Including national and international news at
 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather
12.10 Allsorts. Young children's entertainment (r)
12.30 News with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 *Thames News* and
 weather
1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial (Oracle) 1.50 *A*
Practice. Medical drama serial set in the Australian
 outback (s)
2.20 The European Match. Live coverage from Athens of the
 European Cup Winners' Cup match between the holders,
 Manchester United, and Athletic of Greece. The commentators
 are Alan Parry and Denis Law
4.35 Cartoon Time 4.40 World Children's comedy drama series about
 a boy who turns into a dog when he least expects it (r). (Oracle) (s)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers. The
 questionmaster is Bob Holness
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather
5.55 Thames Play. Jackie Sprackley with details of the Gingerbread
 organisation for lone parents
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Oracle)
6.30 Thames News (Oracle)
7.00 Never the Twain. Amiable and seemingly indestructible comedy
 series starring Donald Sinden and Windsor Davies as rival antique
 dealers. This week, Sinden (Sinden), is converted by a park
 preacher and tries to get Oliver (Davies) to take the straight and
 narrow path

EUROSPORT

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Runway. Richard Madeley hosts the quiz game show with
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10.00 The Time... The Piece... Mike Scott chairs a topical
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LIFESTYLE

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Runway. Richard Madeley hosts the quiz game show with
 holdovers as prizes (s) 9.55 *Thames News* and weather
10.00 The Time... The Piece... Mike Scott chairs a topical
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10.40 This Morning. Family magazine presented by Judy Finnigan and
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 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather
12.10 Allsorts. Young children's entertainment (r)
12.30 News with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 *Thames News* and

Major unveils new deal for patients in health charter

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITAL patients would no longer be at the mercy of an anonymous and constantly changing team of nursing staff, under measures outlined by the prime minister last night. Under a patient's charter to be published soon, they would be entrusted to the care of a named nurse or midwife from start to finish.

This was one of the measures outlined by John Major that is intended to introduce a greater element of personal service into patient care. The prime minister called for more collaboration between the public and private sectors in health care.

Patients needing surgery would also benefit from more of the personal touch. Hospitals would have to write to them as soon as they were placed on a waiting list informing them of the guaranteed waiting time for their

condition and area. Speaking to a dinner organised jointly by the magazine *Nursing Standard* and Bupa, the health insurance provident association, Mr Major made clear that his commitment to the NHS did not mean any lessening of Conservative enthusiasm for a thriving private sector. Tory MPs will interpret the prime minister's remarks as an indication that Mrs Thatcher's replacement by Mr Major and the consequent greater emphasis on publicly funded health care is not meant to eclipse the party's traditional support for private hospitals.

"As the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe begin to hope and plan for private health care, it is inconceivable that anyone in the UK should still oppose it. And, as it grows, there should be more constructive co-operation between the private and public sectors in health," he said.

Labour has diluted its opposition to private medicine, but is still committed to ending its tax advantages and to stopping doctors doing private work during NHS time. The prime minister's robust support for the private sector last night helped to highlight the divisions between the two main parties on an issue that is certain to figure prominently during the election campaign.

Mr Major pointed to the growing role of private nursing homes in the care of the elderly as an example of the kind of co-operation he wanted to see between the two sectors in health care. It increased choice, sustained standards and helped to ensure value for money for the taxpayer. "I believe there is much more scope for collaborative ventures between the private health sector and the NHS... The reforms will make this easier," he said.

The prime minister set out ten principles which, he said, underpinned his commitment to the NHS. They included a promise to see that "the NHS is not just maintained but improved". Extra resources would continue to be provided within the limits the economy could afford. All the money saved by increased efficiency would be ploughed back into patient care and would not be handed over to the Treasury.

Old fox delivers agreement

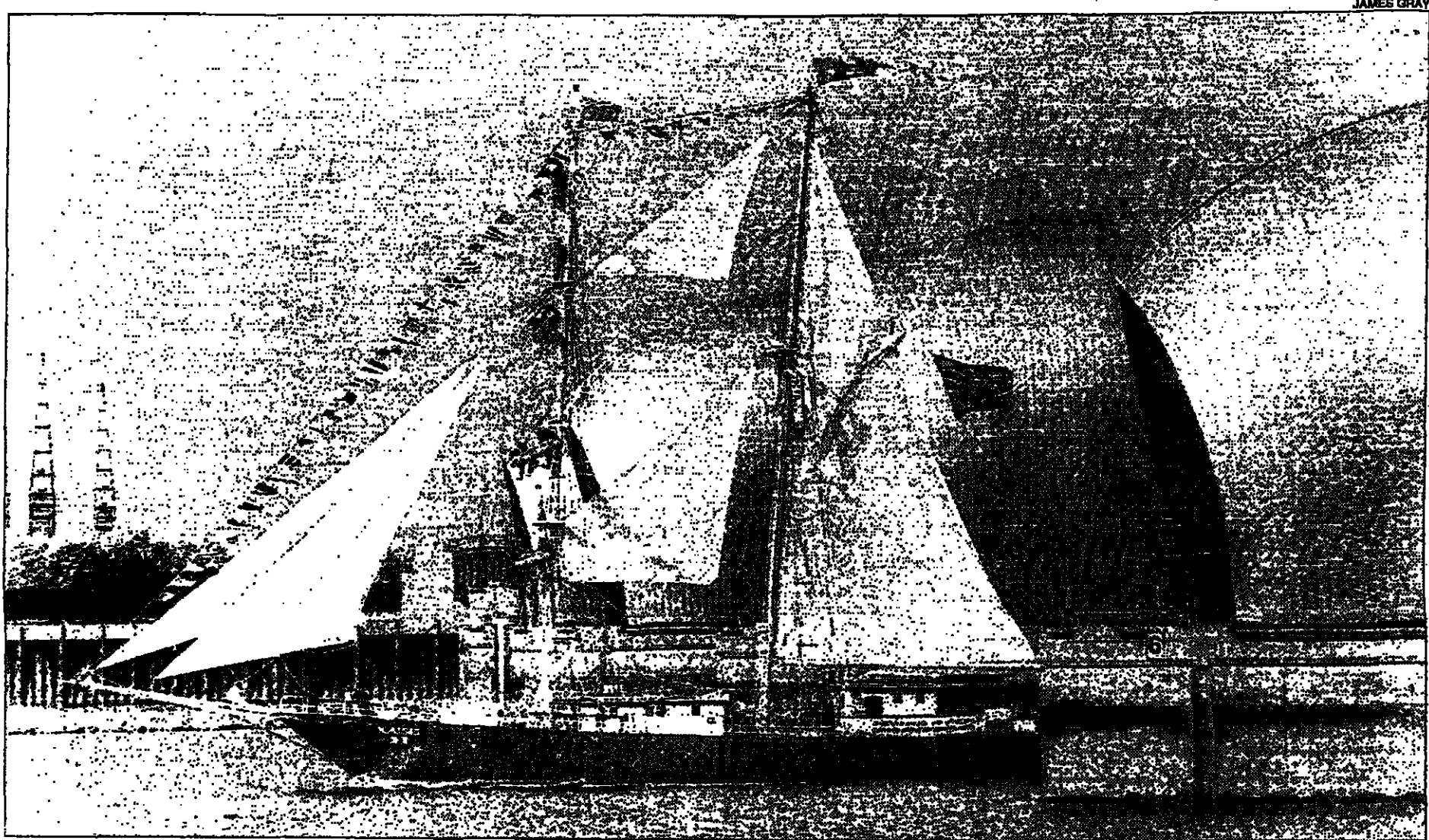
Continued from page 1

now on what happens on the battlefield.

Lord Carrington's breakthrough was to secure the signature of the defence minister, Veljko Kladajevic, and the presence of the chief of staff, General Blagoje Adzic, who, most agree, is pulling many of the strings on the battlefield. If they can persuade the army to return to barracks, and if the Croatian leadership can bring its guardsmen to heel, there may be a useful lull in the shooting.

The Carrington technique is Don Corleone in plus-fours. If the warlords did not sign, he intimated, then an international peacekeeping force was almost inevitable. The Western European Union is due to decide on the issue tomorrow. Neither the Serbs nor the Yugoslav army could stomach that.

Lord Carrington's trick, as during the Lancaster House talks on Zimbabwe, is to accomplish a professional job of honest brokering, while making it appear to be the chance fortune of an amateur.



Sailing by: the Japanese sail training ship Kaisei passes the Thames barrier on her way to St Katherine's dock. The two-masted brigantine will circumnavigate the UK this autumn

Hard times at Hardwick Hall

By JOHN YOUNG

THE National Trust is seeking government money to secure the future of six of its most notable country houses. Unless aid is forthcoming, it fears it will be forced to sell land to pay for their upkeep.

The six properties were all handed over to the trust since the second world war by the government, which had accepted them in lieu of inheritance tax, formerly known as death duties.

Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, was transferred to the trust by the Duke of Devonshire in 1959. Designed in the late 16th-century for Bess of Hardwick, the house contains outstanding furniture, tapestries, and needlework. The estate of 1,991 acres includes courtyards, orchards, a herb garden, and herds of rare sheep and cattle.

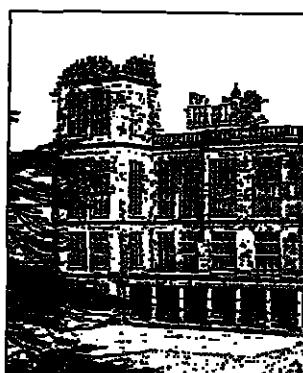
Saltre, near Plymouth, is a George II mansion with 470 acres acquired in 1957. It includes two rooms designed by Robert Adam and a number of important pictures including portraits by Joshua Reynolds.

Dryham Park, Avon, was built for William Blathwait secretary of state to William III between 1691 and 1710.

Acquired with 163 acres in 1956, it includes ancient parkland and herd of fallow deer. Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire, dates from 1661 and includes wood carvings by Gibbons and Pearce. It houses the trust's Museum of Childhood. The 170-acre estate was acquired in 1967.

Cragside, in Northumberland, with 2,354 acres, was acquired in 1977. It is a Victorian mansion designed mainly by Norman Shaw, and was the first house in the world to be lit by hydro-electric power.

Beningbrough Hall, North



Bleak house: Hardwick Hall, where the National Trust may have to sell off land

Yorkshire, with 375 acres, was acquired in 1958. The house was built in 1716, and a major restoration was completed in 1979. It is noted for fine plaster work and contains more than 100 pictures on loan from the National Portrait Gallery.

The trust's difficulties are due to the fact that none of the properties was accompanied by an endowment sufficient for its upkeep, something on which the trust now insists.

The difficulties have been increased by the decline in farm incomes and the rents which farmers are able to pay.

Until recently, a large house which retained all or most of its estate was considered to be financially viable, but that is no longer always the case.

Until 1981, deficits in running costs were met by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, then part of the environment department. Since 1984 the commission has been a quasi-autonomous body, more generally known as English Heritage.

With English Heritage's resources stretched in other directions, grants to the trust have been frozen at 1981 levels, and the department has said it must find the balance from its own resources.

Proposals to sell part of the Hardwick estate have met with strong opposition from local people, who have accused the trust of acting illegally by disposing of "inalienable" land.

The trust denies the charge, emphasising that it will not sell land of historic or landscape significance. It would prefer not to sell, any at all, because it sees that as eating the seedcorn, but claims its hand has been forced.

Heritage bill, page 34

Major delays decision on date of election

Continued from page 1

The latest ICM poll breaks a run of five consecutive polls which had shown the Conservatives in the lead by margins ranging from 1 per cent to 5 per cent and apparently widening the gap.

While there has been a clear trend to the Conservatives since late August, the ICM findings, after a poll three days earlier by the same organisation which had shown the Conservatives with a lead of 4 per cent, indicate a still volatile electorate and are likely to steady some of the November speculation.

Mr Major and his close colleagues are engaged in the difficult strategy of trying to talk up economic optimism without boxing themselves into a November election. There is considerable irritation among his cabinet colleagues therefore at the reluctance tactics of Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, in pushing publicly for an early election. Mr Patten is trying to damp down election speculation and to urge the benefits of waiting until the spring.

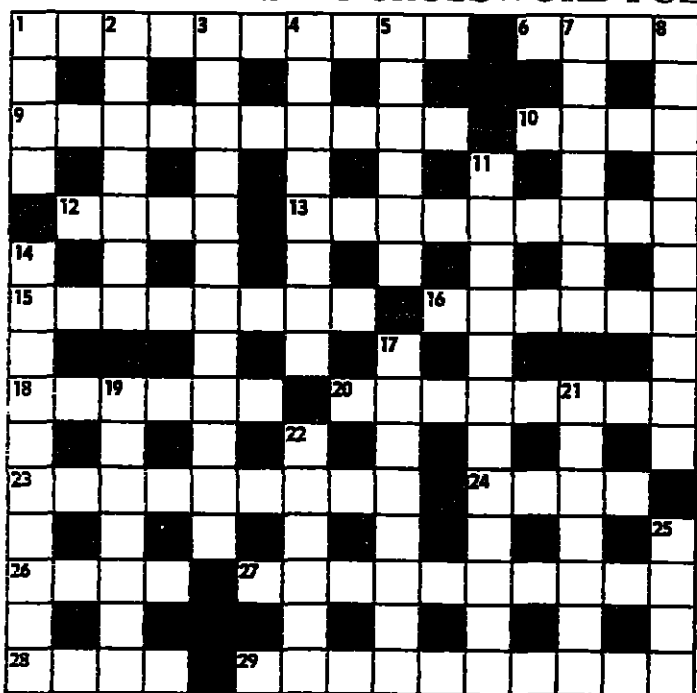
Kinnock view, page 2
Diary, page 16
Leading article, page 17

TOMORROW: FIT TO GOVERN?

The outcome of the next election would be a dead heat between the SDP and the Liberal Democrats, if the outcome was based on which parties take the most exercise, *pro rata*, down at the Westminster Gymnasium. As the Commons prepares for a new session, Victoria McKee looks over the exercise facilities available to Westminster MPs and staff alike, an enlarged gym far better than the one in which (as the joke went) there was hardly room to swing a vote. But who uses it and who does not?

Plus: For the dog which has everything, a Burberry coat. Not to mention a diamond collar. Or one with flashing lights? A special report on pets and their care

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,714



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

VANNER

a. Driver of a van

b. A wincing fan

c. To decamp or run away

PARREL

a. A yard band

b. The paragraph mark

c. A parrot's mark

SELACHIAN

a. Pre-Homeric

b. A shark

c. Vintage Chian wine

HAFH

a. A bookhook

b. A bagoon

c. Barley straw

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE

C London (with N & S Circles)

M1 roads (M1-M2)

M2 roads (M2-M3)

M3 roads (M3-M4)

M4 roads (M4-M5)

M5 roads (M5-M6)

M6 roads (M6-M7)

M7 roads (M7-M8)

M8 roads (M8-M9)

M9 roads (M9-M10)

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M153 roads (M153-M154)

Mulcahy outlines a perfect bid target

GEOFFREY Mulcahy, Kingfisher chairman and chief executive, outlined his criteria for a successful acquisition when he reported the group's interim results yesterday.

"We are in a financial and managerial position to take on an acquisition if a strong opportunity occurred. It would have to be in a long term growth market, be a business to which we could add value and be in a leading position in the market," he said.

Kingfisher has been in talks with Littlewoods about the sale of its mail order business but is believed to have found the price too high.

In the six months to August 3, Kingfisher's pre-tax profits, less exceptional property items, fell 4.4 per cent to £62.5 million on turnover up 4.7 per cent to £1.46 billion. Earnings per share fell 3.2 per cent to 9.2p. The interim dividend is up 3.3 per cent to 4p and the shares fell 11p to 559p.

Temps, page 27

Halt hits Fisons

Profits at Fisons, the pharmaceuticals group, were cut by an estimated £10 million in the first half of the year after sales of two of its drugs were halted by the US government. The group nevertheless increased pre-tax profits by 6 per cent to £95.2 million and is paying a 3.3p interim dividend, up 16 per cent.

Temps, page 27

Payout pegged

MB-Caradon, the building products and security printing group that owns 25 per cent of CMB, the Anglo-French packager, is holding the interim dividend at 2.75p. In the six months to the end of June pre-tax profits slipped from £53.4 million to £47.2 million.

Temps, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7405 (-0.0005)
German mark 2.9136 (same)
Exchange index 91.0 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 2037.9 (-13.1)
FT-SE 100 2594.4 (-11.6)
New York Dow Jones 3008.72 (-6.49)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 23443.61 (+309.18)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Reuters 924p (+80)
ADT 497p (+80)
Henderson Admin 530p (+120)
Barlow Rand 527p (+650)
Kelsey Ind 457p (+100)
FALLS:
PCC 412p (-100)
BCC 687p (-120)
Softeye 266p (-140)
Kwik Save 598p (-100)
Br Aerospace 400p (-130)
Sieb 512p (-120)
Williams Hodge 336p (-240)
Fisons 463p (-350)
Inchcape 352p (-100)
Whitbread 'A' 488p (-120)
BOC 578p (-80)
Rank Org 718p (-140)
Proudford Alexander 406p (-180)
Kingfisher 538p (-110)
Schroders 905p (-100)
Closing Prices...Page 29

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep) \$20.15 bid (\$20.55)
RETAIL PRICES
RPI: 119.1 August (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5 1/8-5 1/7%
30-year bonds 105-102 1/2

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.7435
£ \$1.7425
£ DM 1.5705
£ Sfr 1.4587
£ FF 5.8875
£ Yen 133.25
£ Index 54.7
ECU 10.703597 SDR 10.794653
£ ECU 421.268 £ SDR 127.448
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$348.35 pm \$348.15
close \$345.90-346.40 (£198.85-199.35)
New York: Comex \$346.95-347.45

RETAIL PRICES

Offer follows day of heavy speculation

Williams leaps in with £753m bid for Racal

By MATTHEW BOND

WILLIAMS Holdings yesterday unveiled a £753 million bid for Racal Electronics, 24 hours after the security and electronics group completed the demerger of its 80 per cent stake in Vodafone, formerly known as Racal Telecom.

The bid also came a day after Hanson's £351 million agreed takeover of Beazer, the construction group, and was seen as further evidence that some of Britain's leading industrial managers believe the economic recession is ending. Speculation that a bid for Racal was on its way had prompted a huge turnover in the company's shares on Monday, the first official day's trading for the shares in their

post-demerger form. Almost 149 million shares, or 11 per cent of the company, changed hands. More than half of this activity was due to Williams, which acquired a 2.8 per cent stake in Racal. A further 72 million Racal shares were traded yesterday.

Racal's shares rose 6 1/2p to 57 1/2p, above the 54.15p a share that the Williams' offer, of three new Williams shares for every 20 Racal shares, initially valued them at. Williams said its offer was 21.9 times the average forecast of Racal earnings before exceptional items in the year to end March next year. During the day, however, Williams' share price fell 24p to 33 3/4p, making its offer worth 50.55p per Racal share. Whether Williams' all-share offer is to be

hostile or agreed will become apparent after the board has met with advisers today. The series of meetings began yesterday, after the return from holiday of Sir Ernest Harrison, Racal's chairman. Racal said Sir Ernest's return was not prompted by the bid.

Brian McGowan, chief executive of Williams, said that while Williams preferred takeovers to be friendly, there were "occasions when it is just not possible to talk beforehand".

Nigel Rudd, Williams' chairman, spoke to David Elsbury, Racal's deputy chief executive, early yesterday to inform him of Williams' intention to bid. Mr Rudd said Williams would prefer the bid to be approved by the Racal board, but added that a rejection would not deter him.

"We want to win. We're going to be working very hard to win and first we're going to be working very hard to secure an agreement," Williams' two previous hostile bids, for Norcross in 1987 and McKechie in 1986, both narrowly failed.

Mr Rudd added that Racal's main attraction for Williams was the scope for improving the company's low margins on sales, which he estimated at 2 per cent. Racal's most prominent asset, after the demerger of Vodafone, is the Chubb security business, which analysts believe could be worth about £400 million. Other companies are known to be interested in Chubb, prompting speculation that a second bid for Racal may emerge. Williams, which owns Yale, said it would sell Chubb's branded locks and safes business in Britain if required by the Office of Fair Trading.

The fall in the Williams share price reflected concern that its bid for Racal threatened to dilute 1992 earnings and that the damage to future earnings would be still greater if a counter offer for Racal prompted Williams to return with a higher bid.

Comment, page 25

An Eighties star that still shines

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE astonishing rise of Williams Holdings from a small South Wales metals company to an international conglomerate with sales of more than £800 million and profits of £126 million is one of the most remarkable Eighties success stories.

But more remarkable still is that Nigel Rudd, chairman, and Brian McGowan, chief executive, are still around to tell it. For as the deal-driven Eighties ground to a halt and the economy slumped, many expected Williams' rise to fade like so many of its rivals.

The key that unlocks the higher margins that Williams seems able to wrest from the companies it buys is its special operations group, a team of management experts that arrive, Hanson-style, at a firm's headquarters immediately the deal is completed. The companies that have passed through the Williams management college include

Rawplug, Dupont, London & Midland Industrials, Crown Paints, Berger Paints, Smallbone Kitchens, Pilgrim House and Yale & Valor. The list of failures is far shorter and publicly at least includes Norcross and McKechie.

Final recognition of the duo's durability came last month, when Williams reported interim results for the six months to June, one of the most difficult periods British industry has ever faced. Where others had found profits dwindling to almost nothing, Mr Rudd and Mr McGowan were able to report a 26 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £76.5 million.

With exceptional and extraordinary items conspicuous by their absence, Williams was deemed to have come of age.

Mr McGowan said: "We seem to have arrived. God help us, as members of the establishment."

Tesco stacks up £230m

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SIR Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, defended British supermarkets as the best in the world after he unveiled sales 12 per cent up at £3.1 billion and pre-tax profits up 33 per cent to £230 million for the 24 weeks to August 10. The interim dividend is up 21 per cent to 2p in line with growth in earnings per share.

Sir Ian said British supermarkets were much better than those on the Continent or in America, offering better food safety, quality and value for money. "We probably have the finest food chain in the world," he claimed.

Tesco's operating profits rose by 24 per cent before interest from the March rights issue and net margins rose from 5.8 per cent to 6.4 per cent. This was helped by a 5 per cent rise in productivity.

A pioneering system to base stock control on electronic

point of sale information has cut average stocks from 3 weeks' sales to 2.5 weeks' in stores using the system and Sir Ian said that it should cut average stocks to two weeks' over three years and save £15 million a year. Costs were also



Sir Ian: 'world's finest'

Comment, page 25

Blank looks at Coal's black verse

By PHILIP BASSETT

INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JEAN-PAUL Sartre, the French philosopher, is not normally seen as a natural spokesman for the coal industry. Nor is moody poetry much of a talking point in Britain's dwindling stock of coal mines. But yesterday British Coal reached for both in launching an initiative to try to link together industry and education.

The team of management consultants that had drawn up BC's new drive to feed information about the coal industry and manufacturing into children of an impressionable age, found Jean-Paul sprang immediately to mind when presenting its new package to a bemused crowd of educationalists, MPs and journalists at a London hotel. Fred Nind, an educationalist-turned-consultant, quoted the French existentialist: "It's much easier for a philosopher to explain a new concept to another philosopher than to a

child... the child, with all its naivety, asks real questions."

He was followed by someone reading a poem, "Winter Evening" - a reflection on childhood, according to Catherine Benson, the poet.

Close to the fire I huddle from the cold
Behind my back deep shadows shift and tease
What all this had to do with coal looked anyone's guess. Standing in for Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, Sir John Caines, his departmental permanent secretary, made a few Jim Hacker-Sir Humphrey jokes, and said: "We are strongly supportive of this."

The journalists put down their pens. Malcolm Edwards, BC's ebullient industrial director, was not to be outdone. "Our industry is going through a miserable stage at the moment, if it's going to have a less miserable future, we have to do something about it." What

BC was doing about it was was launching a wholly admirable series of educational packs for schools explaining what coal is, what British Coal is, and what benefits, and problems, the coal industry can bring.

Aiming at 9 to 10-year-olds, BC is trying to persuade the public of the value of coal by tailoring its material to the national curriculum. As well as writing coal poetry, some suggested titles in the packs included the painted *Taken from my Bedrock*, the personalised *I am Part of the Earth* and the bleak, *Coal*. BC is also trying to encourage a bit of enterprise and commercial know-how among the young by suggesting they make and sell paper products (after learning how important coal is to papermaking), and work out a balance sheet. The youngsters' suggested profit was 33 per cent of expenditure. A rather better ratio than British Coal managed this year.

Wembley closes Prowse deal

By ANGELA MACKAY

KEITH Prowse's hospitality and ticketing businesses have been sold to Wembley plc, eight days after receivers were appointed to the group.

Grant Thornton, the receivers, refused to disclose the price but it is unlikely to be more than £1 million. Wembley has promised to honour 20,000 hospitality packages sold for the Rugby World Cup, as well as thousands of theatre tickets and almost 1,000 packages to the Ryder Cup golf tournament, sold before Keith Prowse's collapse.

Britain's oldest ticketing company went into receivership last week with debts of about £7 million. Total liabilities were expected to be more than £15 million.

Sir Brian Wolfson, Wembley's chairman, said he was still negotiating with the Society of West End Theatres. The company will not compensate the theatres for tickets already used since the sale, but it will pay for increasing proportions of pre-sold tickets for future performances. Sir Brian said he hoped Keith Prowse's ticketing booths would reopen today.

The receivers said the sale secured 150 jobs in Keith Prowse and Co and Keith Prowse Hospitality. The group's other main subsidiary, Expotel, a hotel-bookings agency, was sold last week to Modern Group.

Sir Brian said Wembley was "very comfortable" with obligations the company would assume in the deal.

Wembley's share price was unchanged yesterday at 74p. The company owns Wembley stadium, conference centre and arena in northwest London and also has cinema ticket interests in America. It has a turnover of £175 million.

Comment, page 25

Hospitality saved, page 40



Thirsty work: John Young, chairman of Young & Co's Brewery, lead a dray as it made its first delivery to Dirty Dick's pub in Bishopsgate, London. Young, the Wandsworth real ale and pub group, acquired Dirty Dick's and six wine bars trading as Bill Bentley's with an £11.95 million cash and shares takeover of HH Finch in August.

PSBR at full-year level after just five months

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE government forecast of a £7.9 billion budget deficit for this fiscal year has been reached in only five months, after a larger-than-expected public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) in August.

Recession boosts public spending but restrains tax revenues, so City economists expect government finances to deteriorate by far more than Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, predicted in the Budget in March.

The Treasury stressed that it is normal for the PSBR to be substantially higher in the first half of the year than in the second half, when the main tax gathering months fall. Poll tax collection difficulties have also produced exceptional front-end loading of the PSBR this year.

The borrowing requirement of £1.85 billion in August followed an upward-revised

repayment of £1.04 billion in July. The cumulative PSBR of £7.9 billion so far this fiscal year against £3.9 billion deficit at the same stage last year.

Excluding privatisation proceeds, the cumulative deficit was £11.5 billion, a deterioration of £5.9 billion compared with the first five months last year. Asset sales yielded £145 million in August.

The central government borrowing requirement on its own account last month was £2.05 billion, after a £1.60 billion repayment in July. Local authorities repaid £323 million after net borrowing of £588 million in July.

Kevin Darlington, economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, said a clear trend was emerging of particularly weak corporate tax receipts, which was likely to persist in fiscal 1992-3, while public spending was picking up in response to the

recession. He forecast a PSBR of £11 billion this fiscal year and £21 billion in the next. Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi International, expects a PSBR of £12 billion this year followed by £18 billion next.

□ The Bank of England will auction on Wednesday next week a £1.5 billion tranche of 9 1/2 per cent 15-year conversion stock. The issue, which will be partly paid, will have a 35 per cent call on October 28, with a final 40 per cent payable on November 18.

□ In America, industrial output rose 0.3 per cent in August, after an 0.6 per cent increase in July. Forecasts had centred on an 0.6 per cent rise, but lower car production braked the overall rise.

Capacity utilisation in American industry rose to 80 per cent in August from 79.9 per cent in July.



United Friendly Group plc

RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1991

- Interim dividend increased by 20 per cent.
- Pre-tax profit up 11 per cent to £7.8m.
- General business underwriting loss higher due to poor experience in the property and motor accounts.

	Half Year		Full Year
	1991	1990	1990
	£m	£m	£m
Premiums — Life	86.0	83.8	155.8
— General	35.7	30.2	60.7
Life business profits	4.1	4.0	9.3
General branch underwriting loss	(4.2)	(3.2)	(4.9)
Investment income and other profits	7.9	6.2	14.4
Profit before tax	7.8	7.0	18.8
Profit attributable to shareholders	5.0	6.1	14.5
Dividend per share	4.20p	3.50p	10.25p
Earnings per share	7.22p	7.63p	18.14p

The results for the half years ending 30 June 1990 and 30 June 1991 have been taken from the unaudited 1991 Interim Statement.

The 1991 Interim Statement will be sent to all Shareholders on 24 September 1991. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, United Friendly Group plc, 42 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HE. Telephone: 071-928 5644, Fax: 071-261 9077.

Sir Ernest makes a £1bn killing

Few things in life irritate Sir Ernest Harrison so much as the stock market's perception of the company which has been his life's work, Rascal Electronics. Frequently over the past couple of years the market value of the whole group was substantially less than that of its 80 per cent shareholding in Rascal Telecom, the enormously successful Vodafone operator which has now been demerged.

Sir Ernest's irritation was not exactly soothed by predictions made at the time of the Rascal Telecom flotation to the effect that such a discount was likely to appear. Last November, he surprised the City with his plan for a full demerger of the Telecom stake along with plans, since put on ice, for a second and third stage break-up through a handout of shares in Rascal Chubb and a management buy-out of the remaining electronics interests.

But those widely questioned plans for a break-up could scarcely have proved more successful from Sir Ernest's view or more embarrassing for his critics. He said at the time that

the plan would enhance shareholder value and it has done so handsomely. Stripped of the complexities, Sir Ernest has restored to his shareholders close on £1 billion of value. The implied negative valuation of Rascal Electronics at times reached more than £200 million last year. It has been replaced with a positive value of £753 million, courtesy of the takeover offer from Williams Holdings.

And the story is by no means over. The Rascal camp was keeping its powder dry yesterday but is likely to press for a serious cash alternative and/or a higher offer before the dust settles. Sir Ernest has a strong hand to play in future negotiations. Williams would clearly prefer an agreed deal bringing the support and full co-operation of Rascal's senior management. Some modest improvement in terms would be a wise investment if it brought acceptance from Sir Ernest. That said, the terms are already on the

generous side of reasonable. Rascal Electronics' own brokers, Smith New Court valued the residual operations post the Vodafone merger at 39.1p per share compared with the nominal value of 54p offered by Williams.

Though there is plenty of recovery potential in these businesses, this is an observation which could have been fairly made for several years. Since 1985/6 turnover has grown from £1.2 billion to £1.5 billion in 1990/1, while pre-tax profits have slumped from £110 million to losses of £19 million in the same period.

Williams has an excellent record of turning round acquisitions and has almost finished detailed work on its most recent, Yale & Valor. But the 24p fall in its share price yesterday suggests

that its supporters in the market will not allow a great uplift in the bid terms before disenchantment sets in. The deal is a gamble on Williams overcoming the dilutive effects of the deal fairly swiftly. On current perceptions, this is no easy task.

Tip-top Tesco

Recession is at last scratching top supermarket groups like Tesco, but they have enough buoyancy, physical expansion and efficiency gains to keep profits moving strongly ahead while other retailers struggle. Tesco still managed a 12 per cent rise in sales for the 24 weeks to August 10 but that is now down to 10.5 per cent, more than accounted for by inflation of 5 per cent and extra space from

the marginally slimmed £1 billion a year expansion programme.

Sales volume at existing stores is now running 1 per cent lower than a year ago against 1.5 per cent higher a few months ago. Instead of buying luxury foods as an alternative to eating out, customers are starting to look for special offers, though Tesco's award-winning wine and spirit section was an exception with sales up 30 per cent.

The revolution that has turned Tesco from a has-been of the late seventies into a paragon for the nineties continues however. In the less profitable first half, net margins improved yet again from 5.8 to 6.4 per cent. Tesco hopes to move second half margins from 7.3 to above 8 per cent.

With its peer rival Sainsbury doing the same thing, however, closing the remaining 1 point gap between the two is no easy matter. With margins the priority, at least no-one wants a price

war. Tesco's underlying momentum is still there. Productivity rose 5 per cent, helping to meet a fancy pay deal that, with the recession, has helped cut staff turnover from a peak of more than 100 per cent a year to less than 15 per cent. Tesco is also pioneering a stock control system that will use bar codes to base stock deliveries directly on sales, instead of costly stock counting. This could raise profits by £15 million over three years.

Taking a line from the trend in sales volume, and a lower than expected contribution from rights issue cash, profit forecasts for the 53-week year were cut in the City yesterday. Tony MacNairy of County Natwest, who has come down from £575 million to about £560 million, for earnings up about 14 per cent to more than 19p per share, still thinks this is a short-term problem rather than any sign that the supermarket leaders might be expanding further than the market can bear. At about 14 times earnings, Tesco shares still offer the good value that chairman Sir Ian MacLaurin insists that his customers receive.

Asil Nadir and the Polly Peck players are brought to book

ASIL NADIR, chairman of Polly Peck International, the collapsed fresh fruit, hotels and electronics group, was arrested once again last week after he arrived by arrangement at Holborn police station for questioning.

The interview continued for three days and no charges were laid beyond those he already faces. He is due to appear on remand at Bow Street magistrates court next week and by that stage the Serious Fraud Office, should have decided whether it will add to the charges made against him last December, of £25 million worth of fraud and false accounting.

Against this backdrop, the first of at least four books on the Asil Nadir phenomenon will be published tomorrow. *The Sultan of Berkeley Square - Asil Nadir and the Thatcher Years* portrays the City in the Eighties as the perfect hot-house to nurture Asil Nadir and his master company, Polly Peck. Tim Hindle, the author, whose business pedigree includes *The Economist*, is no champion for the Nadir camp but he has no patience with those in the City who profess astonishment at this spectacular rise and fall, and challenges those whose business it was to husband corporate governance.

"What mattered to the British had been not what Polly Peck did, or where, but the fact that it was Mr Nadir who did it. He had the sort of following a top jockey might get at the races. Punters did not back the horse he was riding... they were encouraged to back the man by the Thatcherite promotion of the entrepreneur."

The author questions the roles of the non-executive directors and institutional investors, particularly after the departure of most of the new management, headed by Tony Reading, who were employed to implement more stringent controls after Polly Peck grew like Topsy in 1987. Then, the institutions "had demanded more heavily weighted but were allegedly silent when they quit or were sacked."

Mr Hindle is no lover of the



Multinational or stateless: Nadir charmed the City

SFO and its use of the now notorious section 2 powers under the Criminal Justice Act, which remove an interviewee's right to silence. "Section 2 gives the SFO more power to abuse civil liberties than any other body in

'He had the sort of following a top jockey might get at the races'

Britain, with the possible exception of the Customs and Excise," Mr Hindle rails.

He is suspicious of the SFO's claims that it did not leak any information about the raids on Polly Peck and its associate, South Audley Management, which helped trigger an extraordinary run on Polly Peck's shares, more

than halving them to 108p in one day.

One incident cited as evidence of an immature SFO's overzealousness was the manner of Mr Nadir's arrest in December. His company jet was diverted to a quiet corner

of Heathrow airport where a convoy of police cars was waiting on the tarmac. Mr Nadir and two Turkish-Cypriot associates were on board.

"Police officers swarmed on to the plane. 'You're all under arrest', they screamed. 'You would have thought I was Che Guevara,' said Mr Nadir."

In one of those strange coin-

cidences, Mr Hindle points out that three Thatcherite success stories at their peaks had their head offices located simultaneously around the perimeter of Berkeley Square.

Apart from Polly Peck, the Saatchi brothers and Martin Sorrell, of WPP, had their advertising empires based there. All three were held up by Mrs Thatcher as pinnacles of achievement during the Eighties and all three have suffered declines in fortune caused by overly-ambitious borrowing to fund misguided business deals, although shareholders in Saatchi and WPP at least have a tradeable security, unlike investors in Polly Peck.

The most difficult issue to resolve relates to Mr Nadir's nationality, and that of his company, and the effect this had on City confidence. Mr Nadir's family left Cyprus for Britain in 1959 and Asil Nadir did not return for 20 years. He went to university in Istanbul but was never really comfortable there, a factor exacerbated by his Turkish which was always identifiable as rough Cypriot and not from the more sophisticated mainland.

Was he, therefore, Turkish Cypriot, Turkish or British? Was he, like the company he built, a multinational, or after shuffling between the three places was he simply stateless?

The British were wary of foreigners until it became smart to be exotic and different. This was helped by the Thatcher government's positive attitude to Turgut Ozal, whose civilian government came to power in 1983. He encouraged foreign investment and removed irksome red tape, and Mr Nadir, with his knowledge of the region combined with his success in the City, was considered worthy of encouragement.

Mr Nadir's initial success was shattered in the mid-Eighties after the market decided Mediterranean promise can be instantly transformed into political uncertainty when Greek Cypriots who lost property when Cyprus was partitioned tried to stop the company "exploiting property". He struggled to return to

favour and his undeniable charm, combined with rapid growth by acquisition, restored his reputation in the City. By 1989, when the company bought Del Monte fresh fruit from RJR Nabisco, Polly Peck was once again the market's darling and as a result it was the best performing share of the decade with a 126,590 per cent increase compared with the 480 per cent of the main market index.

Mr Hindle's decision to publish before Mr Nadir comes to trial indicates an expected second edition some time next year. Mr Nadir has already been tested by the City and, in the long run, he failed. His next challenge is to make sure that performance is not repeated in court.

ANGELA MACKAY

Recession halts pay rises for directors

INCREASES in company directors' earnings have been halted by the recession, according to the Top Pay Research Group. The remuneration consultancy suggests that this has been masked by the publicity given to big increases in the earnings of a few star individuals.

The group's latest comparison of professional earnings shows that the remuneration growth of senior civil servants has overtaken that of company directors. The mandarins are likely to stay ahead next year too.

Peter Brown, chairman of Top Pay Research, said that for all the concern that had been expressed about surging private sector earnings, company chairmen, from firms of all sizes, received an average 154 per cent rise in total remuneration between 1980 and 1990. Executive directors got 138 per cent.

A civil service head did better, with earnings up 183 per cent over the decade. Admirals' pay rose 146 per cent. High court judges had rises in line with company directors. Last year alone, the earnings of a civil service head

averaged £94,000, making the £40,000 for company directors, £51,000 for managing directors and £54,000 for chairmen look almost modest by comparison.

Mr Brown said directors' salaries were still rising, probably by 4 to 5 per cent this year, but the bonus element, which constituted about a fifth of total remuneration last year, has collapsed under the impact of recession. He predicted that earnings this year would be "flat, at best".

Public-sector professionals overall, he believes, can expect rises of 6 to 8 per cent in earnings this year, which means they will start to catch up with their private-sector counterparts for the first time

in five years. Looking back at the Eighties, Mr Brown said the decade had been a good one for the earnings growth of the professional classes, in both the private and the public sectors.

He detected little sign that the recession would come to an end soon for small and medium companies, and forecast that next year could again see the public sector move ahead faster than the private one. Directors' earnings would see no significant increase.

The slowdown in directors' earnings in Britain would widen the pay gap between this country and its main European rivals, probably leading to increased poaching of British executives, according to Mr Brown. "UK directors will be cheap for the next few years," he said.

Non-executive directors saw the biggest earnings growth among professionals in the Eighties, roaring ahead by 225 per cent. But that reflected the low base they started from and the shift towards giving non-executive directors a greater role.

COLIN NARBROUGH

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cool, Kalms and collected

STANLEY Kalms, £550,000-a-year chairman of Dixons, the high street retailer, this week boosted his bank balance by £2.69 million — he sold a million Dixons shares at 269p. Since most brokers' circulars are currently recommending the shares as a "buy", even though they have outperformed the FT-SE 100 index by 77 per cent in the past 12 months, market traders are curious to know if Kalms knows something they do not. "No, it doesn't represent my view of the economy or the shares," says Kalms. "I still own 3.5 million shares, which represents a major part of my personal assets. I am still as committed as ever. It was simply a personal decision, a reallocation of my personal investment portfolio."

String of firsts

THE Serious Fraud Office is celebrating a string of firsts with the Charnley Davies

trial, which opened at Leeds Crown Court on Monday. The case was the first taken on by the SFO after it was set up in April 1988. It is the first leading trial to be conducted outside London, and Charnley Davies was the first group to be placed in administration under the Insolvency Act 1986. Cynics would add a fourth first: the longest time ever for an SFO case to reach the courts.

Initial lesson

DAVID Prosser, elevated to the position of chief executive at Legal & General, Britain's fourth largest insurance company, last week, has been pausing for reflection. Thinking back to his Welsh roots, he vividly remembers the time when he was head boy at the grammar school in Bridgend, South Wales, and was left to supervise a class of younger pupils. He caught one of the boys carving his initials in a desk and, without a moment's hesitation, instructed the lad to do a hundred lines. The punishment complete, the guilty child then led Prosser to

the back of the class and pointed to another wooden desk, where Prosser's own initials had been deeply carved some years earlier. "I gave him, I thought, some very valuable advice," says Prosser with a wry smile. "Don't get caught."

Edited out

JOURNALISTS at the Financial Times were agog yesterday as word went round that their editor, Richard Lambert, had been turned away from a press conference hosted by Dewe Rogerson, the PR firm, one of the advisers to Williams Holdings in that group's bid for Rascal, because his name was not on the guest list. Dewe Rogerson, embarrassed by the incident, admit Lambert did turn up and was refused admission, but explain that the event was in fact a presentation for analysts. A meeting — complete with sandwiches for luncheon — was hastily arranged, between Williams directors and "a team" of journalists — minus Lambert — from the FT. "It

was all very pleasant," insists Lambert. "I bumped into one of our photographers on my way into work and he told me about the press conference. Since it was quite early I thought we might not have a reporter there. Only when I arrived did I discover that it was actually for analysts."

Question of speed

UK LAND, the property developer, has added a new twist to the row over British Rail's boast that Britain has more high-speed trains than the rest of Europe. The company has secured the first let in its 48,000 sq ft office project at Lille, near the French TGV station. It estimates it will take just two hours to get to London, 150 miles away, once the Channel tunnel opens. Paris, slightly further away, will be a 50-minute journey, while Frankfurt, 50 miles further than London, will take no longer to get to than London once new high-speed links open up.

CAROL LEONARD

By OUR CITY STAFF

freed resources for other projects. It said the deal provided more benefits than a listing for MS&A that was proposed last May.

By MARTIN BARROW

Ordinary shareholders are offered two new shares for every nine held at 285p a share, against yesterday's price of 345p. down 1p. Hold-


By Our City Staff

Britain: components were disappointing; electronic assembly was profitable despite a slump in data processing; and the distribution division suffered in the recession.

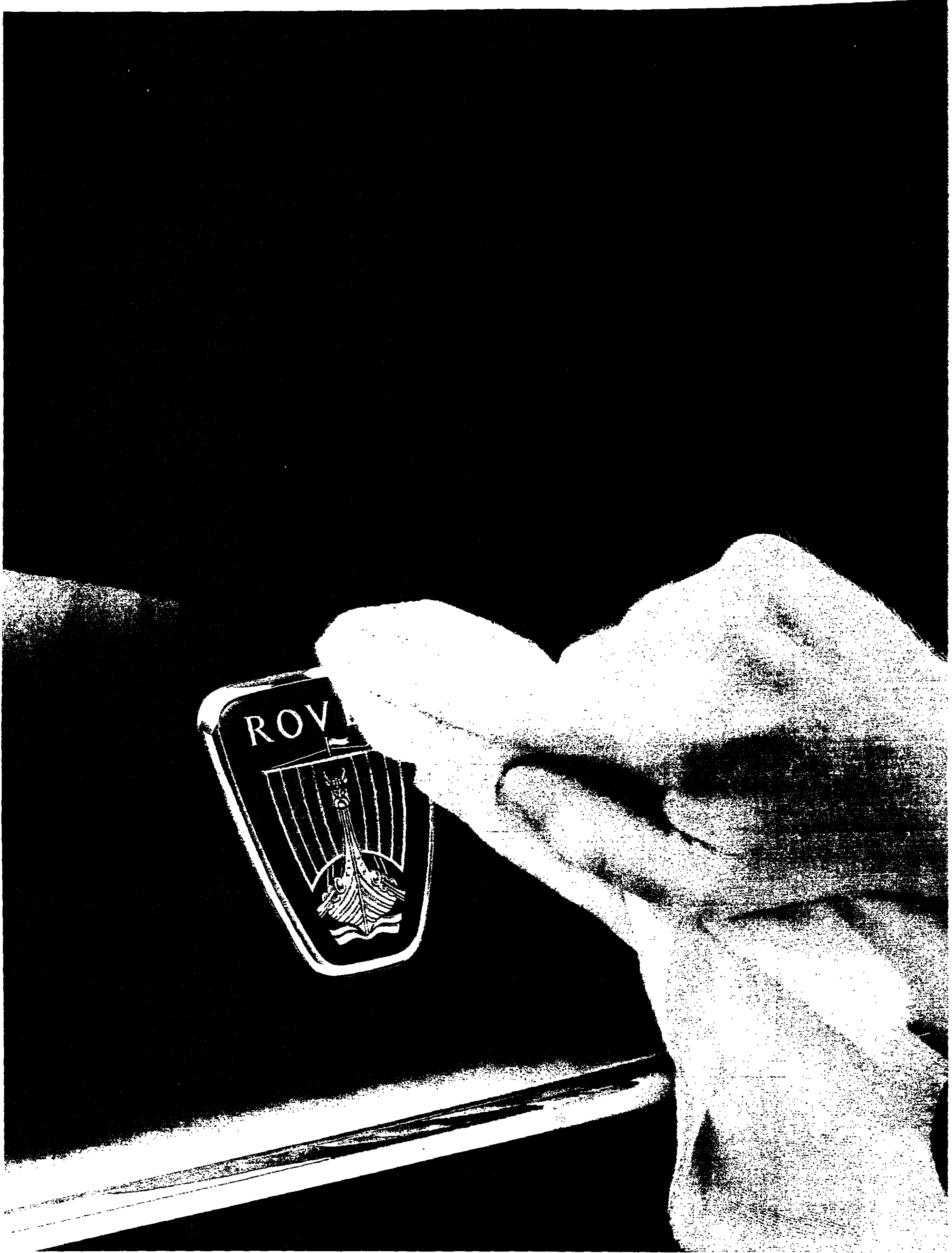


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هكذا من الاجل

Quantifying the quality

Members of the Channel 3 jury reach the first of their verdicts today, as those broadcasters who have been on trial since May prepare to debate and commiserate with each other about what the future holds for British television at the Royal Television Society's biennial Cambridge Convention this weekend.

By tomorrow afternoon, the ten-member board of the Independent Television Commission (ITC) will have concluded the painful task of weeding out the Channel 3 bidders that fail to satisfy requirements for quality television.

The winners and losers of the first round will not know who they are, and even the long-awaited chance on Saturday morning to "grill" David Glencross, the ITC chief executive, about the regulator's decision-making process is unlikely to ease their tension. Mr Glencross, like all ITC representatives attending Cambridge, is not about to give anything away.

Answers to the questions on everyone's lips — who has passed the quality threshold and who of the lower bidders, if any, will win licences by virtue of the exceptional circumstances clause? — will not be answered by the ITC until next month.

An ITC spokesman says that Mr Glencross will say some "broad-brushed things about the laborious and complex decision-making process", but cannot be drawn into speculation.

The big guns are as nervous as the arrivistes as Channel 3 bids are assessed. Melinda Wittstock reports

Indeed, Mr Glencross is expected to say little more than he did in a recent letter to *The Times*, in which he implied that the ITC would use its discretion to award licences to lower cash bidders.

Broadcasters will have to confine their speculation to the dilemmas facing the ITC as it ponders the future shape of ITV. The main difficulty, besides trying to estimate whose advertising projections are correct without the use of a crystal ball, concerns the fortunes of Granada, Thames and LWT — each a linchpin of the ITV network and each significantly outbid by a greenfield challenger. Would the ITC be justified in invoking the exceptional circumstances clause in all three cases? If that was not deemed politic, how would the ITC choose between the three incumbents?

If industry gossip is any indication, observers would conclude that the ITC will choose just one. With LWT's challenger, London Independent Broadcasting, considered unlikely to pass the quality test, the real battle is between

Thames and Granada. It is not surprising that Carlton Communications and Virgin are convinced the loss of Granada would be a disaster for the network: both are bidding for Thames. Nor is it any coincidence that Phil Redmond's North West Television (NWT), backed by Yorkshire and Tyne Tees in its challenge to Granada, believes Thames would represent an even greater loss to the network. Even those bidding against TVS have an interest in the demise of Thames — if Carlton wins Thames, it cannot win TVS.

The rival PR machines are now working overtime in the belief that even the ITC jury can be influenced by newspapers. Granada and its many backers continue to insist that NWT, which has bid about £15-million more, will be thrown out at the first quality hurdle.

In their turn, NWT and Yorkshire keep their guns trained on Granada's regional programme record and argue that just one programme — *Coronation Street* — could not justify awarding the licence to the lower bidder.

The London weekday battle of nerves has been won by Carlton: morale at Thames is so low that others must defend it. Mr Redmond, for instance, describes as "arrant nonsense" the prevailing industry view that Thames is more vulnerable than Granada.

"Thames supplies 203 programmes, with audiences of



Jewel in the Granada crown: Thelma Barlow and Peter Baldwin in *Coronation Street*



Thames's glittering prize: Huw Higginson (left) and Tony Scannell in *The Bill*

9.5 million or more, to the network, with *The Bill* representing 90 of these. Granada supplies 190 such programmes, but 153 are *Coronation Street*. The loss to the network would be far greater if Thames was displaced," he says.

Coronation Street could still be sold to the network's new central scheduler even if Granada lost its licence; then again, so could *The Bill*, *Minder* and *This Is Your Life* if Thames lost out.

So, if both Carlton and

NWT are of sufficient quality, why annoy the Treasury — and by extension, the taxpayer — by deliberately choosing lower bids, especially when Central has apparently bid an unopposed £2,000 a year?

Then again, can a future of quality television be assured only by refusing to risk possible destabilisation of the network with the loss of two such linchpins?

If compromise is considered the only solution, how does the ITC decide which company it will save with the

exceptional circumstance clause, particularly given the threat of judicial review?

Does the jury look at each region in isolation, or does it look at the whole map to decide which is the worst loss — Thames or Granada — or which is the best gain — Carlton or NWT?

Opinions may vary among broadcasters about what the ITC should do, but all are agreed on one thing: they do not envy the ten ITC board members who must solve the imponderables.

Jericho, said the firm carried out the survey as a means of understanding how to tailor its overtures to the news media. "We found that they don't trust us, so we have to overcome that. Better to lose the client than ruin your relationship with a member of the media."

Some public relations firms were unhappy about his survey. "They blasted us for giving journalists a chance to compare us with animal," Mr Yaverbaum said. "But I thought that if we gave them a chance to vent their frustrations, they would then fill out the questionnaire."

CHARLES BREMNER

MEDIA WATCH

OutRaged

A DELEGATION of homosexual *Guardian* readers is to meet Peter Preston, the editor, tomorrow afternoon to suggest ways that the newspaper can "repair the damage it has done to the community" with an article in the September 7 issue entitled "Gay Abandon". The article, accompanied by a photograph of two men kissing in a bar with the caption "kiss of death", resulted in a picket last Friday outside *The Guardian's* offices and more than 500 letters of complaint. "Unless Mr Preston agrees to suggest some meaningful changes in editorial policy, OutRaged will call for a national boycott of *The Guardian* starting September 23," says Steve Stannard, a member of the delegation. *The Guardian* will also be asked to institute "awareness workshops" for its journalists.

Channel 4 tune

THE £500,000 "golden handcuff" payment made to Michael Grade, head of Channel 4, was approved by the Independent Television Commission (ITC), a senior ITC source revealed. "The ITC looks pretty awful for approving the payment, but it would also have looked pretty bad if it hadn't approved it. The whole

episode raises the question of whether or not the ITC will ever be prepared to use its teeth," says Margaret Windham-Hoffman, the director of the Independent Programme Producers Association (IPPA), who met ITC executives yesterday. Mr Grade has spent the past two days explaining the one-off payment to department heads and commissioning editors.

Not the first

BENNETTON resorted to "serious disinformation" to defend its controversial newborn baby advertisement in Britain, the Outdoor Advertising Association (OAA) says. At the time, the Italian fashion chain, which was asked to remove its posters after more than 800 complaints, said: "This same image is running around the world in some 50 countries and Great Britain is the only place where there has been this reaction." But Benetton neglected to mention that its blood-smeared baby image had provoked the same reaction throughout the rest of Europe. David Taylor, the director of the OAA, says the advertisement was banned in Italy, Germany, Ireland and France.

Home service

DEBATE about the future of the BBC must be as wide as possible, with the views of "Mr and Mrs Average" playing an important role in a Conservative government's thinking about the licence fee, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, will tell broadcasters attending this weekend's Royal Television Society convention in Cambridge. Mr Baker, who will take on the unpopular task of defending the 1990



Listening: Kenneth Baker broadcasting act, is also expected to allude to a white paper on the BBC in 1994 or 1995.

So much for democracy

John Brown, publisher of the *Viz* comic and Virgin Atlantic's *Hot Air* magazine, says that only those travelling first and business class will get the chance to read *Aeroflot*, a new quarterly in-flight magazine to be published in both English and Russian, and aimed at "key decision makers in the Soviet Union". The magazine will also be sent separately to 30,000 "top decision-makers who do not fly", Mr Brown says.

M.W.

THAT there is little love lost between journalists and public relations people is no secret. The hacks see their as a higher calling and resent the need to go through flaks, as the Americans call them, for their information. On their side, the PR people often have low regard for the herd-like press and they like to see themselves as "communications" experts vital for the flow of information and the moulding of image. Now, a New York public relations firm has come up with statistical evidence of the uneasy rapport.

Jericho Promotions Inc, which handles publicity for publishing

In PR terms, they are just weasels

When journalists describe public relations men, insults start to fly

firms and one of America's biggest pizza chains, sent out questionnaires seeking the opinion of more than 5,000 journalists. The answer from the half who bothered to respond showed that 68 per cent do not trust public relations people, though 81 per cent admitted that they needed their services. Given a list of professionals with whom they would least like to spend time, jour-

nists ranked public relations people as slightly more desirable than dentists and income tax inspectors, but less so than in-laws, ex-lovers and Ed Koch, the loud-mouthed former mayor of New York.

Asked to compare public relations people with types of animal, 71 per cent of the journalists chose the weasel, followed by fox, dog and worm. Asked which word best

described them, most journalists chose "annoying".

The firm found, not surprisingly, that the services of public relations people were most used by journalists and editors covering the entertainment world. The biggest surprise was that 90 per cent of news stories involving health were initiated by public relations firms.

Eric Yaverbaum, the president of

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BBC Political Correspondents

John Cole and the BBC team of Political Correspondents are looking for bright, experienced journalists to join them. With the General Election imminent, applications are invited from those with a track record in political print or broadcast journalism.

Based at the BBC's new Westminster studios at Millbank, Political Correspondents broadcast on both radio and television, mainly for the major daily programmes such as *Today* and the *6 O'Clock News*, but there will also be opportunities to contribute to *On The Record*, *Special Assignment* and other weekly shows. In addition, Political Correspondents are the backbone of the BBC's General Election and Party Conference coverage.

BBC News & Current Affairs is particularly anxious to stress its commitment to equal opportunities. BBC Westminster has a good track record for employing women and members of ethnic minorities, but both groups are currently under-represented in our team of Correspondents, so we would especially welcome suitably-qualified applicants who fall into one or other of these categories.

Salary by negotiation in the region of £35,000 p.a.

For an informal discussion, please contact David Aaronovitch on 071-573 6063.

A job description and application form (returnable by Friday 4th October) can be obtained by writing to BBC Westminster, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JQ, or by telephoning 071-573 6201 quoting ref. 8619/T.

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Your maturity and breadth of experience and interest will be considered as important as your educational qualifications. You'll also need to be energetic, innovative, insatiably curious, able to communicate easily, verbally and in writing - and at least 22.

Applications from those with disabilities, or from black and Asian people, are particularly welcome as these groups are under-represented in network radio production.

The initial salary will be £14,021 plus an allowance of £1,500 and is reviewed at the end of the first year.

Further details of the Scheme and application form are available from (quote ref. 8504/T) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 071-496 5555. Mfndcom 071-496 6700. The information is also available on a short cassette for visually handicapped applicants.

Requests for application forms must be received by 27th September and completed forms must be returned by 18th October 1991.

Preliminary interviews will be held from 20th - 24th January 1992. You should know if you're being invited by Christmas. The training commences September 1992.

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Continued on

King's Loch impresses

By PHIL MCLENNAN

KING'S Loch confirmed the promise of his Nottingham debut with a pillar-to-post success in the Reference Point Stakes at Sandown Park yesterday.

Willie Ryan set off at a modest pace and, quickening the tempo two out, was not hard pressed to hold the challenge of Leap In The Dark by a length with Bayreig three-quarters of a length back.

The winner, a half-brother by Salmon Leap to High Estate, the champion two-year-old of 1988, will definitely race again this season but Henry Cecil is undecided where. He is in the William Hill Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot in ten days' time, as is the third horse, but a far more likely objective for the winner is the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster, a race Cecil has farmed over the years.

Whether King's Loch will follow in the illustrious footsteps of Reference Point, who won this race for Cecil in 1986, or Elmaamul and Generous, the last two winners of this race, only time will tell.

Cecil, however, was genuinely enthusiastic about the potential of King's Loch, who was conceding 9lb and 6lb respectively to the well-regarded placed horses. "Willie only went a canter early on



Britain: lucrative treble at Sandown and Yarmouth

and he will have learned a lot from that," Cecil said. "I don't think he had a hard race and he's a good prospect."

Clive Brittain ended a recent lean spell in emphatic style with a 3,509-l across-the-card treble in the space of 35 minutes. The nursery victory of Minstrel's Age at Yarmouth divided a 233-1 Sandown double for Brittain in the two-year-old handicaps on Carousella and Chatham Island. Jimmy Quinn partnered Carousella while Brett Doyle was on board Chatham Island.

Doublova gained her tenth career victory from 15 starts in the Willow Claiming Stakes. Jack Berry has placed the filly with particular aplomb, eight of those successes coming in claiming races.

DEVON EXETER

MANDARIN
1.30 Swifts Butterfly, 2.00 Phisus, 2.30 Green Island, 3.00 Cici, 3.30 Refute, 4.00 Blake's Progress.

THUNDERER
1.30 Swifts Butterfly, 2.00 Phisus, 2.30 Green Island, 3.00 Cici, 3.30 Refute, 4.00 Blake's Progress.

GOING: HARD

1.30 TSW GARDENS FOR ALL NOVICES

HANDICAP HURDLE (11.45): 2m 3f (7 runners)
1. 304 SWIFTS BUTTERFLY 84 M Pops 6-11-10 P Scudmore
2. 200 PHISUS 77 M Pops 6-11-10 P Scudmore
3. 194 MARLBOROUGH LADY 13 (BF) M A Knight 5-10-8 W Bailey (7)
4. 5-PE EMERALD MOON 28 W G Turner 4-10-2 S Burrough
5. 194- GLENDOLE 127 B Smart 6-10-1 J Hoggan
6. 194- CHENEBE 7 G Hoggan 5-10-7 J Hoggan
7. 194- SUNDAY JIM 15 H Hoggan 5-10-7 Martin Jones (3)
11-12 Swifts Butterfly, 3-1 Marlborough Lady, 4-1 Emerald Moon, 6-1 Chenebe, 10-1 Red Coat, 15-1 Sunday Jim.

2.00 GUS HONEYBEE NOVICES HURDLE

(11.47: 2m 1f) (3)
1. WIGWAM BLEED 49F W G Turner 4-10-12 S Burrough
2. 3-0 MASCALLS LADY 7 N Thompson 6-10-9 J Hoggan (7)
3. 194- PHISUS 77 M Pops 6-11-10 P Scudmore
Evening Phisus, 7-4 Mascal's Lady, 11-4 Wigwam Bleed

2.30 TSW OFF THE HOOK NOVICES CHASE

(12.31: 2m 1f) (6)
1. 121 GREEN ISLAND 13 (F) A Dunn 5-11-8 Peter Hobbs
2. 50-6 BETWEEN THE SHEETS 5 (F) N Mitchell 6-11-4 D Skyrme
3. 121 CHUMMY'S STAFF 18 R Frost 6-11-4 W Bailey
4. 121 LITTLE LAD 94 N Thompson 6-11-4 J Hoggan (7)
5. 121 AL-KHALIDA 2 (R) R Hoggan 7-10-13 A Torg
10-1 Green Island, 3-1 Chummy's Staff, 5-1 Between The Sheets, 8-1 Al-Khalida, 15-1 Little Lad, 25-1 Last Lane.

3.00 TSW FARMING NEWS SELLING

HURDLE (1.51: 2m 1f) (5)
1. 451 GORDON 4 (CO) D Jany 4-11-10 P Davies (7)
2. 5-2 PUSH LOVER 2 (F) W G Turner 4-11-10 H Davies
3. 4-1 QUINTESSENTIAL 7 (F) C Popham 3-10-5 R Powell
4. 121 FISHBONE 15 (F) R Hoggan 5-10-7 J Hoggan
5. 121 FOULSH MASQUERADE 7 (R) H Hoggan 5-10-7 J Hoggan
1-2 Fox, 4-1 Fishbone, 8-1 Quinessential, 10-1 Pushy Lover, 15-1 Gordon

Blinkered first time

SANDOWN PARK: 2.20 Mowbray 5.30 Far Pavilion, 5.50 Ashwood, 6.10 Beverley, 6.30 Between Two, 6.50 Lasso Scott, 7.10 Languedoc, 7.30 Sea Crab, YARMOUTH: 2.15 Hestonart, 2.35 Boddies, 4.15 Empress.

3.30 TSW TODAY HANDICAP CHASE

(2.17: 3m 1f) (4)
1. 111 REFUTE 26 (C.F.G.S.) M Pops 6-11-10 P Scudmore
2. 121 JURA 130 (R.S.) H Cecil 5-10-7 A Macdonald
3. 3-01 DRYANQUILL 13 (C.F.G.) N Thompson 10-10 J Hoggan (7)
4. 111- LOCH RAVEN 371 (CO.F.) B Eddy 15-100 M R Farnes (7)
8-11 Refute, 5-2 Playpen, 4-1 Loch Raven, 12-1 Driancruis.

4.00 TSW LOOKING BACK HANDICAP HURDLE

(Amateurs: 12.04: 2m 1f) (6)
1. 1422 BLAKE'S PROGRESS 4 (BF) M Pops 6-11-10 P Scudmore
2. 5-4 RAMROD 7 (BF) R Hoggan 6-10-10 J Hoggan (7)
3. 1422- MURRAY 287 (F) M Pops 6-11-10 P Scudmore
4. 1422- ROYAL WARDEN 13 (F) J Tappin 10-100 M R Farnes (7)
5. 1422- FORTUNA'S FOX FIRE 1015 M R Farnes 11-100 M R Farnes (7)
4-5 Blake's Progress, 3-1 Ramrod, 5-1 Ramrod, 8-1 Royal Warden, 10-1 Mural, 25-1 Fortuna's Fox Fire

DEVON SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil, 38 winners from 103 runners, 36.9%, P Hobbs, 21 from 116, 18.1%, R Frost, 14 from 55, 25.4%, J Hoggan, 7 from 57, 12.3%, N Mitchell, 4 from 38, 10.5%, J Hoggan, 3 from 11, 27.3%, S Burrough, 6 from 30, 20.0%, J Frost, 22 from 117, 18.8%, Peter Hobbs, 14 from 88, 15.9%, A Torg, 3 from 28, 11.5%.

YARMOUTH SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil, 38 winners from 103 runners, 37.9%, B Hoggan, 9 from 30, 30.0%, R Hoggan, 3 from 10, 30.0%, J Hoggan, 6 from 21, 28.6%, J Gordon, 8 from 32, 25.0%, A Stewart, 16 from 81, 19.8%.

YARMOUTH SPECIALISTS

JOCKEYS: W R Swanton, 28 winners from 124 runners, 22.6%, L Newton, 5 from 30, 16.7%, A McEwen, 3 from 32, 9.4%, J Hoggan, 3 from 20, 15.0%, M Tebbutt, 5 from 37, 13.5%, F Norton, 3 from 24, 12.5%.

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YARMOUTH

MANDARIN
1.30 Kestrel Forboxes, 2.45 Little Rousillon, 3.15 Julliar, 3.45 Stone Mill, 4.15 Hazy Shuffle, 4.45 Bandmaster, 5.15 Factuelle.

THUNDERER

1.30 Mca Below The Line, 2.45 Crossillon, 3.15 Viaage, 3.45 Jura, 4.15 Songfaster, 4.45 Bandmaster, 5.15 Factuelle.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:

3.15 JUTFAAR (10ap).

GOING: FIRM (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

DRAW: 5F 43YD-1M 3YD, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 NEWTOWN SELLING STAKES

(12.08: 7f 2yd) (14 runners)
1. 3000 GANT BLEU 5 (F) R Whittaker 4-4-4 W R Swanton 4
2. 5-45 HALEM 72 (G) J Scott 4-4-4 S Burrough
3. 414 KESTREL FORBOXES 5 (F) J Barry 3-4-4 S Burrough
4. 120 MCA BELOW THE LINE 58 (R.D.F.) W Pearce 3-4-4 S Burrough
5. 400 ATLANTIC CLEAR 11 J Banks 4-4-4 S Burrough
6. 1302 KIRBY OPPORTUNITY 5 (D.F.) J Pearce 3-4-4 S Burrough
7. 3200 SUMMER SANDS 28 (F) J Hoggan 3-4-4 S Burrough
8. 0450 SHARP N EASY 55 D Tucker 4-4-4 S Burrough
9. 414 KESTREL FORBOXES 5 (F) J Barry 3-4-4 S Burrough
10. 044 HARLEQUIN 21 (R) K Hoggan 3-4-4 S Burrough
11. 1104 LITTLE BANG 25 J Hoggan 3-4-4 S Burrough
12. 020 MASCALLS LADY 7 N Thompson 6-10-9 J Hoggan
13. 000 RED POPPY 15 G Pritchard 3-4-4 S Burrough
14. 000 WATERMILL 88 D Hoggan 3-4-4 S Burrough
5-2 Kestrel Forboxes, 6-1 Summer Sands, 7-1 Mca Below The Line, Atlantic Clear, 9-1 Red Poppy, 12-1 others.

2.45 SHADWELL STUD APPRENTICE

SERIES MAIDEN STAKES (12.52: 1m 3yd) (6)
1. 2-40 CROSSILLON 136 G Wagg 3-4-4 S Burrough
2. 100 LITTLE ROUSILLON 10 (R) A Stewart 3-4-4 S Burrough
3. 3-00 SALWAN 9 W Hoggan 3-4-4 S Burrough
4. 3-00 SOUTH AUSTRALIA 14 M J Codd 3-4-4 S Burrough
5. 100 RALA J Gordon 3-4-4 S Burrough
6. 000 SCOTTISH TWA 8 King 3-4-4 S Burrough
11-10 Rala, 7-4 Crossillon, 9-2 South Australia, 11-2 Salwan, Little Rousillon, 5-1 Scottish Twa.

3.15 NORTH SEA HANDICAP

(12.58: 1m 3f 10yd) (6)
1. 2425 VENTURE 11 (BF.F.S.) W Hoggan 6-10-10 W R Swanton 4
2. 3-40 VENTURE 11 (BF.F.S.) W Hoggan 6-10-10 W R Swanton 4
3. 2-40 VENTURE 11 (BF.F.S.) W Hoggan 6-10-10 W R Swanton 4
4. 2-40 VENTURE 11 (BF.F.S.) W Hoggan 6-10-10 W R Swanton 4
5. 2-40 VENTURE 11 (BF.F.S.) W Hoggan 6-10-10 W R Swanton 4
6. 2-40 VENTURE 11 (BF.F.S.) W Hoggan 6-10-10 W R Swanton 4
11-10 Vantage, 11-2 Vantage, 9-2 Juffar, 6-1 Checkpoint Charlie, 5-1 Vantage.

3.45 GOLDEN JUBILEE CHALLENGE

HANDICAP TROPHY (12.55: 1m 2f 21yd) (9)
1. 6200 CROUPIER 5 (F) R Whittaker 4-4-4 W R Swanton 4
2. 3-21 JURA 130 (R.S.) H Cecil 5-10-7 A Macdonald
3. 2111 STONE MILL 4 (R.D.F.) B Hoggan 3-4-4 S Burrough
4. 1015 DREAMS END 25 (R.S.) G Wagg 3-4-4 S Burrough
5. 0500 BOTTLES 11 (R.D.F.) B Hoggan 3-4-4 S Burrough
6. 1988 NORTHERN CONQUEROR 10 (R.D.F.) B Hoggan 3-4-4 S Burrough
7. 2003 OVERPOWER 11 (F.S.) M Tompkins 7-7-7 David Williams (7)
8. 8885 TAYLORS PRINCE 20 (C.D.F.) H Collingridge 4-7-7 H Collingridge (7)
9. 3335 CALLIPOLI 14 (G) J Hoggan 4-7-7 H Collingridge (7)
5-2 Stone Mill, 4-1 Jura, 5-1 Dreams End, 7-1 Bottles, 8-1 Taylors Prince, 12-1 Crouper, 15-1 others.

4.15 NORFOLK FARMERS CLAIMING

STAKES (2-Y.O.: 12.05: 7f 2yd) (16)
1. 0000 ALLEGRAHNT 8 P Torg 8-1 W R Swanton 8
2. 50 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
3. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
4. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
5. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
6. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
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14. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
15. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
16. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)

4.45 LIFEBOT MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y.O. colts and geldings: 12.07: 7f 2yd) (8)
1. 0000 ALLEGRAHNT 8 P Torg 8-1 W R Swanton 8
2. 50 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
3. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
4. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
5. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
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15. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
16. 04 BURNWAT FORT 28 M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)

5.15 HALVERGATE HANDICAP

(12.59: 5f 43yd) (8)
1. 0000 ENNIS EXPRESS 30 (F.F.S.) K Hoggan 6-10-10 D Piggott (R)
2. 0000 SALLY'S SON 11 (R.D.F.) W Hoggan 6-10-10 W R Swanton 4
3. 0000 SALLY'S SON 11 (R.D.F.) W Hoggan 6-10-10 W R Swanton 4
4. 2100 FACTUELLE 18 (D.F.S.) M Tompkins 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
5. 4100 LADY'S MANTLE 6 (D.F.S.) R Swanton 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
6. 3500 TACHON PARK 2 (D.F.S.) P Hoggan 7-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
7. 0000 YBS 21 (R) D Hoggan 3-4-4 S Burrough
8. 5-00 SONGFASTER 21 (F.S.) H Hoggan 4-7-7 H Hoggan (7)
11-4 Factuelle, 7-2 Lady's Mantle, 9-2 Ybs, 11-2 Tachon Park, 6-1 La Chic, 10-1 Sally's Son, 12-1 others.

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